



Annual Review

The King's School in Macclesfield

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Cover photograph by Michael Patey-Ford

In September, we were saddened by news of the death of Ron Birkett, formidable Head of the Junior School from 1968 until his retirement in 1986. Ron's time at King's was neatly enveloped by the Headship of Alan Cooper, whom we lost in February. Alan's two decades at the helm from 1966 to 1987, was a period of enormous societal and cultural change and presented the school with some significant financial and structural challenges. It required someone of Alan's tremendous calibre to navigate this period successfully and the school will remain forever in his debt. The fulsome tributes paid to Alan at his memorial service in Wells Cathedral, bore eloquent testimony to the stature of one of our greatest headmasters.

Alan was my Headmaster and, typically, he was amongst the first to write to me when I was appointed. He knew the challenges of headship, but he also reminded me of its opportunities and the absolute need to look to the future, whilst working in the present. I am sure that he would have been delighted with the progress the school is making towards our 2020 Vision for King's on a single site. The inclusion of the school in the Local Plan, marks another step along the way and crucially offers us reassurance that the project will be financially viable. At the same time, I hope he would be pleased to see continued investment in our current facilities. Work is now well underway on the Westminster Road development and the first stage of our ICT Strategic Plan has been achieved with the completion of the single network across the Foundation, a new enterprise standard WiFi system and the launch of Microsoft 2010. At Fence Avenue, the Upper Junior School has been refurbished and we have completed the transformation of the canteen. Thanks to the generosity of the Friends of King's, the Infants have added a new play area to the facility we opened for the Juniors last year.

Development, of course, is not just about buildings and facilities. During the last academic year, we have conducted a review of our curriculum, with the help of staff, students and parents. The Education Committee approved the changes in October and we have now started to plan for implementation in September 2014. As well as introducing Critical Thinking and P4C (Philosophy for Children) to pupils in Key Stage 3 (Years 7 - 9),

we have remodelled our approach to GCSE, to enable the majority of students to take an additional qualification. The new school day that underpins our review, will consist of six periods, rather than the current five, and this will provide increased curriculum time for departments, along with a more balanced day for pupils.

In a year in which we have seen record academic results at A and AS level, against the backdrop of tightening national standards, I am delighted to report that this achievement has not diminished the vibrancy of our music, impaired the quality of our theatre, or damaged the record of our sport. The musical highlight of last year was the wonderful *Maria Theresa Mass*, performed to a full church in the Puginesque splendour of St Albans. Jo Beesley demands much from her performers, and neither the choir, nor her exceptionally talented group of student soloists, let her down. Alison Lea and Soulla Richardson thrilled audiences with the Year 6 production of *Honk!*, the musical retelling of Hans Christian Anderson's *Ugly Duckling*, with more routines and costume changes than you will see in the West End. Little wonder that the Junior Choir swept the board last year at the Alderley Edge Musical Festival. And, for a change of mood, theatre-goers needed to look no further than Donald Forbes's intensely dramatic staging of Timberlake Wertenbaker's *Our Country's Good*.

At the same time, our sportsmen and women enjoyed another impressive year. The 1st XV's unbeaten season and national second place in the Daily Mail's rugby ranking, was the product of the same dedication, teamwork and leadership that we have just noted in music and drama. Last year's boys' hockey season was amongst the most successful on record, with the 1st XI reaching the NW finals and the U16 and U13 teams reaching the North of England Finals. Our U11 football team won the Reliance Sevens tournament to carry off the largest trophy I've ever seen. And, not to be outdone, the U11 netballers were crowned Macclesfield and District Champions and winners of the Terra Nova tournament. Our cheerleaders grabbed four out of five national titles, at the National Schools Cheerleading

Headmaster's Report

Championships, and in trampolining, Rowena Moores was crowned U15 national champion whilst our U13 Elite boys' team also came first. For once, our cricketers were blessed with sunshine, chalking up ten victories against some worthy opponents including MGS, Stockport, King's Chester and Bolton.

Results like these (and there are more!), are the product of the combined efforts of the teaching and support staff at school and, of course, our pupils. Without a dedicated and supportive staff, no school can flourish. So let me thank my colleagues for all that they have achieved over the last year, whether inside or outside the classroom. We expect a great deal from our staff and I continue to be impressed by the huge range of opportunities they facilitate for our pupils.

We are also fortunate as a school, to have so many parents who are prepared to become involved and to help us extend the range and number of opportunities for our pupils. There are, of course, too many to mention by name, or to include all of those parents who give so freely of their time to help the Friends of King's, but perhaps you will forgive me if I pick out a few other individuals. Andrew Ireland has effectively run our chess club for the past four years, using time off work to coach and inspire the pupils. Alison Moores not only helps coach the Year 6 netball team, running practices on Thursdays and Monday lunch times, but is also one of a number of extraordinarily committed parents who have helped propel our cheerleaders and trampoliners to national success. Rob Thorneycroft is a constant fixture at school matches, has generously sponsored our rugby players and helped refit the Cumberland Street weights room. To these, and all our parents, I want to offer heartfelt thanks on behalf of the school.

There are two other areas of school life that I must touch upon. The first is the work of our artists. The range and quality of the artwork around the school is, quite simply, exceptional. We are blessed with a team of artists whose subject is more than just a job: it is a passion. And I am delighted that they communicate that passion to so many. Finally, there is the enormous amount of charity work at King's. What we do for others says much about who we are, and I am delighted to report another year in which a



staggering £25,000 has been raised across the Foundation to help good causes. This includes a remarkable £3,000 at *King's Sings for Syria* and £1,200 at the Girls' Division's 'Raid my Wardrobe' event. Fundraising, of course, sits alongside other charitable work, including the laying of a water pipe for a village in South West Africa (pictured above), completed as part of this summer's Namibia expedition, and the service programmes run through the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Again, it would take too long to identify all that we do, but I want to offer our acknowledgement and thanks to all our artists, fundraisers and volunteers.

The new academic year is a time for welcoming new colleagues and for recording our thanks to those who have left us. Last year saw the retirement of a number of long-serving colleagues, including Mark Harbord and Geoff Shaw, who taught me when I was at King's, in the 1970s. The school also said farewell to our Senior Teacher for Staff Development, Val White, whose 19-year King's career saw her rise from one of the first teachers in the Girls' Division to Vice-Principal, and finally to the Senior Management Team. Other retirees included Alison Powell, our unflappable Foundation Nurse; Val Kendal, mainstay of the School Office; Clare Bingham, Gillian Banner and Linda Johnston. Michael Patey-Ford retired from teaching, but will, fortunately, continue to lend the school his remarkable creative and design talents on a part-time basis. The contributions of these King's legends, and others who have moved on, were acknowledged at our end-of-year hog roast in July, but you will find more

in the following pages. I hope it is sufficient for me simply to record our gratitude.

I should also record our appreciation to a number of Governors who retired from the Board last year including Mr Mike Forbes and Cllrs David Neilson and Alift Harewood. Mike was instrumental in launching the Quincentenary Bursary Scheme in 2002 which, to date, has raised over £500,000 and enabled 50 pupils to join, or continue, in the Sixth Form. His keen golfing interests make him a stalwart of the Bursary Fund Golf Day, now an annual event raising around £2,000 a year. We are profoundly grateful. I should also record our thanks to Cllr Harewood who served on the Governing Body *ex officio* as Mayor of Macclesfield. The nature of the mayoralty makes the appointment transitory by nature, but I would like to record here our appreciation of Alift's interest in and commitment to the school. Indeed, I suspect she was present at more school events last year than I was. Cllr Harewood's successor is Cllr Lloyd Roberts and, as a close neighbour, it is a pleasure to welcome him to the Board. Finally, I would like to record our thanks to Mike Strutt for taking on the chairmanship of the Bursary and Fundraising Committee and to Cllr Hilda Gaddum, who succeeds David Neilson as our Child Protection Governor.

Equipped with a new set of aims and an ambitious development plan, we have had a busy year. Working hard at work worth doing is always a source of satisfaction and, for me personally, it is both a privilege and pleasure to continue to serve as your Headmaster.

Simon Hyde

Hail

Welcome to the following members of staff, who joined King's during the academic year 2012 – 2013:

Helen Bassirat replaced Liz Auger as the After School/Holiday Club Supervisor and also became a Learning Support Teaching Assistant. She joined King's from the Diocese of Shrewsbury, where she was a Project Development Worker. Helen studied Child Care, Education and Learning Support and previously worked as a Learning Support Assistant and an Applied Behaviour Therapist, as well as running and owning her own pre-school nursery. Helen worked as a volunteer for her local church and has been involved in running youth groups for teenagers for many years.

Stephen Batson replaced Michael Preston as Network Engineer. Stephen has previous experience in a wide range of organisations, both educational and commercial, having worked at Tameside College of Further Education and most recently for ROMEK. He studied IT at Manchester College of Arts and Technology and has a Certificate in Network and Systems Admin in Education from Lancaster University. He is an Assistant Coach for the Samurai Jujitsu Association where he teaches self-defence to children. His other interests include swimming, mountain biking and fishing.

Emma Breese joined the Mathematics Department from Alderley Edge School for Girls. A graduate in Engineering from Cambridge University, and a holder of a doctorate from the same institution, Emma completed her PGCE training at Manchester Metropolitan University. Before a career change to teaching, Emma worked as a Senior Coastal Engineer and Project Manager for several years. She has a strong interest in drama and musical theatre and is a qualified teacher of modern dance.

Natalie Davis joined us to become the Head of Learning Support, a newly created department that replaced Learning Enhancement. Natalie came from All Hallows School, where she was a member of their SEN Department for a number of years. She graduated in Business with ICT Education from Manchester Metropolitan University and also has a Diploma in

Psychology from the Open University and a Post Graduate Teaching Certificate from the University of York. Before coming into teaching, Natalie had a 12-year career in advertising.

Andrew (Doug) Duggan joined us again in the Mathematics Department, covering a maternity leave post. He worked at King's for a period at the end of the Summer Term 2012 and was well received by pupils and colleagues.

Sarah Graham Sarah replaced Carol Dewhurst and Francesca McArthur as our new Careers and Development Officer. Sarah came from a career in media, and is a graduate in English Literature from the University of Lancaster. She enjoys amateur dramatics and reading and has in the past run drama sessions and a book club for children.

Richard Griffiths joined King's as Deputy Head (Academic). He took a first in English from Pembroke College, Cambridge and then studied for a PGCE in English with Drama at the University of Manchester. He is a Principal Examiner for the AQA English Literature iGCSE and is also a Parent Governor at his children's primary school. Richard was previously Head of English at Bolton School (Boys' Division) where he ran the Debating Society, a martial arts club and coached a football team, as well as directing many major school productions. He had also recently created a Sixth Form Reading Group and a Poetry Society.

Maria Gutiérrez Fernández came to teach Spanish and French for two terms on a part-time basis within the MFL Department, and joined us from her teacher training course at Manchester Metropolitan University. She has previous experience at Cheadle and Marple Sixth Form College, and is a native speaker of Spanish. Maria has a degree in History, a Post Graduate Teaching Certificate in History, an MA in Post Graduate Teaching of Spanish and a PGCE in Secondary Spanish with French. Her interests include music, the arts, jewellery making and crafts. She can also speak Swedish and Portuguese.

Sarah Hayward joined the Mathematics Department as an NQT. She graduated in Mathematics from Manchester University, where she also completed her PGCE course. Sarah

plays the clarinet and also plays hockey for Ladies 1st team at Macclesfield Hockey Club.

Matthew Hogan joined the school to cover for maternity leave in the IT Department. He graduated in Secondary Education Business Studies (ICT) with PE and is also currently studying for a Masters in Education. He previously worked at Eaton Bank Academy as an e-Learning Coordinator and at St Nicholas Catholic High School and Sandbach School as an ICT Teacher. He writes reviews on software and hardware for an education magazine as well as leading live reviews at their regional conferences.

Jessica Seth joined King's to provide cover for maternity leave in the MFL Department. Jessica came from Putney High School for Girls where she was Head of Modern Foreign Languages and Head of French. She was also Head of French for three years at the North London Collegiate School. Jessica graduated in French and German from the University of Manchester and studied for her PGCE at King's College, London where she also completed a Masters in German Linguistics.

Toby Seth joined King's as Deputy Head (Development). He graduated in Modern and Mediaeval Languages (French and Spanish) from Trinity College, Cambridge and then took a PGCE in French and Spanish at King's College, London. He is also currently completing an MA in Leadership in Education (Leading and Managing Change for Improvement). Toby leaves his post as the Senior Teacher (School Organisation and ICT Development) at the Godolphin and Latymer School in London, where he was also Head of Modern Foreign Languages. He has worked previously at Wellington College and Dulwich College. He has coached rugby, tennis and football and has assisted with the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Chris Skelton came as our new Director of ICT Support. Chris had worked at the Kingsway School in Cheadle, where he led their ICT Support team. His previous experience was in business, where he was an ICT technician. Chris graduated in Foundation Network Management from the Manchester College of Arts and Technology. Chris enjoys keeping fit and has completed the Great North Run to raise

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funds for the East Cheshire Hospice.

Emma Smith joined the English Department from an Arts College in Sudbury. She graduated with a First in English and Music from the University of Birmingham, and trained as a teacher at Cambridge University. An accomplished musician, she enjoys playing the piano.

John Tedford covered maternity leave in the Geography Department. He graduated in Geography from Liverpool University where he also completed his PGCE. He previously taught at the Grange School and St Edward's College, Liverpool, where he was Senior Teacher and Head of Teacher Induction and Development.

Chris Thomson took on the newly created role of Director of Sport on Mark Harbord's retirement. He was a pupil at Oundle School and took a BA (Special Honours) in Sport and Recreation Studies at the University of Birmingham where he also studied for a PGCE in Physical Education with History Subsidiary. Chris was previously the Head of Boys' Games and Master i/c Cricket at Fettes College, Edinburgh. He spent a year on a teacher exchange programme at Trinity Grammar School, Sydney and, after university, spent another year in Australia at Barker College and Canberra Grammar School as a PE and Sportsmaster, Games Coach and PE Assistant. Chris played cricket for Northamptonshire U19s and still acts as an area scout for the Northants County Cricket Board. He is a qualified cricket, rugby and hockey coach.

Janine Turner joined the MFL Department for two terms on a part-time basis. As well as being an educational consultant for the BBC, Jan works at the local Mill Languages Centre in Macclesfield and was previously Head of Spanish and Head of Year at Stockport Grammar School for many years. She graduated in German with French from the University of Birmingham and University of Freiburg and completed her PGCE at the University of Durham. Her interests include swimming, walking, dragon boat racing and opera singing.

Dave Gee returned from retirement from King's to teach within the Design and Technology Department for one year.

Frank Walker returned to King's from retirement, joining the English Department on a two-term, part-time basis.

We also welcomed the following temporary members of staff: **Tom Ainsworth**, Hockey Coach; **Nick Barker**, Games Coach Juniors; **Issy Bell**, Volunteer Admin Assistant (Gap Year); **Marta Yerpes Cordoba**, Spanish Assistant; **Marion Dupont**, French Assistant; **Kathryn Epp**, German Assistant; **Victoria Lomas**, Sports Coach (Gap Year); **Kate Morris**, Temporary School Nurse; **Tim Pont**, Hockey Coach; **Kamlesh Sodha**, Rugby Coach (Gap Year)

Farewell

Anne Alderson

Anne joined King's 6 years ago as Learning Enhancement Coordinator. She wrote very personal and informative IEPs to support the quite complex needs of some pupils who join King's. She understood how some of our brightest students may still need support with particular needs, especially if their learning requirements were a little more challenging than others. Anne offered her pupils a level of personal care and kindness which came from her counselling background and understanding nature. Her wealth of experience as an English teacher certainly came into the fore in her exciting Study Skills lessons and she was without doubt very highly thought of, not only by the pupils who had the pleasure of being in her lessons, but also by those of us who had the pleasure of working alongside her.

Not only did Anne do all this in just 2 and a half days a week in school; she put in a huge amount of time over and above that, giving up her weekends as she walked miles over hill and dale as a staff member of the Duke of Edinburgh team. I have no doubt, that her enthusiasm and boundless energy was a highly valued contribution to the quality of those events.

There is still a significant presence missing from our TP building – not to mention the occasional offer of a shared lunch, which usually consisted of four dates, three brazil nuts and a handful of raisins. (And a cup of herbal tea!) Anne plans to enjoy her retirement with her husband David: they aim to spend time travelling and having holidays (in term time!), supporting

her sons at University, and in digging up most of the old trees in her beautiful garden, a job she says has needed doing for the last umpteen years.

LR

Gillian Banner

Gillian Banner joined the English department in September 2000, only two months after her daughter, Esmé Patey-Ford, left King's to study English at Worcester College, Oxford. Prior to this, Gillian worked for eight years as a social worker before going to Sheffield University for seven years where she studied for her BA, MA and PhD in English Literature. Throughout that period, she taught at Sheffield and also worked for the Buxton Arts Festival, was a 'fixer' for the Northern Chamber Orchestra, and worked as a researcher for a High Peak MP.

Within the Girls' Division and the Sixth Form, Gillian quickly established herself as an inspiring and creative teacher of English and, the year after she joined King's, she was appointed as the Senior Subject Teacher for English in the Girls' Division, which role she managed ably. The varied and diverse route that Gillian took, to come to teach young people, contributed greatly to her delivery of the subject, whilst her prior experience as a social worker was put to good use when she was appointed as Child Protection Officer for the school. She also made contributions to the Governors' meetings as a staff representative.

Gillian is passionate about literature and introducing young people to the power of language. The resources she produced for her teaching were inventive and provocative, always requiring students to think, question and challenge aspects of our society and indeed their own thoughts. Furthermore, the multi-media she used were stimulating and thought-provoking. She was patient and supportive, nurturing the tentative and allowing the able to soar. She never accepted the lazy, predictable responses, but urged her classes to think and take risks.

Throughout her time at King's, Gillian supported many young writers to find their voice and the writers' groups she ran, produced remarkable work. Indeed, a writers' residential that she organised at Barlaston gave those who took part, time and space to create original and magical pieces; and perhaps more importantly, they had lots of pleasure doing so. Gillian's classroom, F4, at Fence Avenue was always an

inspiring place to visit. Thought-provoking wall-displays, impressive artwork and beautiful King's Macc roses, created a harmonious environment, conducive to reflection and imagination.

Gillian shared her interest in nature with her classes. In springtime, there would be live footage of the peregrines nesting at Derby Cathedral: the web-cam images documenting the chicks' progress would be projected into the room, via the interactive whiteboard.

And, most notably, on several occasions, in order to support her GCSE set's study of 'A Kestrel for a Knave', she organized a display of raptors in the Fence Avenue hall. Students were captivated: not only did the experience unlock the text for them but it brought them into close proximity with peregrines, kestrels and other birds of prey, an encounter that many students will never forget.

Gillian intends to spend time on her own writing and in her garden. We thank her for her significant contributions to the English Department and wish her every happiness for the future.

LCD

Rachel Bateman

Rachel joined the English Department as Senior Subject Teacher at Cumberland Street in September 2010, replacing Reg Davenport on his retirement. The following year, she took up the SST post at Fence Avenue.

Rachel brought to her role as SST, not only a high degree of organisation but also a strategic understanding of the needs of a department. She encouraged and fostered cross-curricular working, whilst her considerable experience as a GCSE Literature examiner and a regular contributor to Teachit, was invaluable to colleagues and pupils.

She was very innovative as an SST, setting up an 'ask the examiner' website alongside revision sessions, and overseeing an exciting variety of clubs and activities to enhance pupils' enjoyment of English-related subjects. Rachel was a calm and caring teacher and tutor, whom girls and colleagues respected enormously.

She left King's at the end of the Autumn term, to take up a post with an examination consortium in Cambridge. Her colleagues and pupils wish her every happiness, both in her new home and in the next stage of what is sure to be a very successful career.

JCA

Clare Bingham

Clare was one of the first teachers to be enrolled for the newly founded Girls' Division. She started in 1993 as Senior Subject Teacher for Geography and gallantly operated in that role at Fence Avenue ever since. Significantly, her affection for her subject has never been in doubt. Nor will there be any pupil who has passed through her classroom who has not been touched by Clare's concern for his or her progress and overall development.

Her experience was invaluable to her GCSE tutor groups and on many a Geography trip, including recent ventures to the French Alps, where her hidden talent of speed skating was revealed. She also operated as Head of Adlington, since the establishment of the House system in 1993. Here, she enthusiastically managed and participated in numerous competitive, yet jovial events, including playing the part of Posh Spice in a Spice Girls staff rendition of 'Wannabe', complete with pout, although disappointingly, minus David Beckham.

Clare always had a good sense of humour and was great fun. I have an abiding memory of a Christmas assembly, where someone, whom I presumed to be a pupil, dressed in a full Santa suit and face-hugging mask, strode purposefully up and down the aisles, throwing boiled sweets into the increasingly animated crowd. To my amazement Santa departed after the assembly into the staff room, where 'he' casually remove 'his' mask, to reveal Clare, showing no signs of perspiration or fatigue.

For many years, Clare organized the Year 9 outdoor walking camps with care and meticulous attention to detail, introducing all to the delights of map reading and soggy tents. We will miss Clare very much and wish her well in all her future endeavours.

ASP

Kate Easby

After 10 years at the school, Kate left King's this summer for an exciting new life in 'Bella Italia'. Throughout her time with us, she proved herself to be an outstanding teacher. She was loved by the younger pupils as a really caring teacher, with a great sense of humour, who provided exciting, engaging lessons. For older pupils, she was invariably seen as a devoted teacher, but also a friend and adviser, with whom they wanted to maintain links, long after leaving King's.

Apart from being a great Latin and Classics teacher, Kate was a dedicated Years 7 and 8 Form tutor, before moving to be a tutor in Years 12 and 13. More recently, Kate ran the Sixth Form activities on Wednesday afternoons.

She took part in many Classics trips abroad to Rome, Pompeii and Greece and she organised some of these trips herself. Kate's presence on these trips, along with Dan who inevitably tagged along, gave the trips a special, extra flavour.

After taking part in the Fashion show for a number of years, including dancing in the staff salsa routine, Kate took charge of organising the show for three years, with notable success. During the last few years Kate had been giving up her time to help out with the D of E programme.

Kate offered much to the Classics department and to the school: we will miss her but wish her well in all her future endeavours.

MTH

Christophe Fico

Christophe left this summer, to take up his post as Head of French at Bolton School. He arrived at King's in 2007, following some years working in media, and quickly established himself as a charismatic, meticulous, efficient teacher and became a hugely creative and productive team player in the Modern Languages Faculty. Initially based at Cumberland Street, after a short time he was promoted to become Senior Subject Teacher for Modern Languages, and his impact was huge in that role. Whilst promoting the teaching of languages at the Girls' Division, he also threw himself into extra-curricular language activities, setting up and running a highly popular GCSE study trip to Paris and helping with many other activities. He will be missed at King's but we wish him every success in all his future endeavours.

IED

Janet Handley

Janet Handley joined King's in 2008 from Glossopdale Community School: she came as a part-time English teacher but, as it was immediately apparent that she brought significant reserves of passion, energy and expertise to her teaching, she was given a full-time post at the first opportunity. Sadly for staff and pupils alike, Janet left King's at the end of the Autumn term, moving with her husband, Ingvar, to Norway,

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where she planned to embark on new adventures, such as learning Norwegian, becoming a proficient skier and returning to post-graduate study at Tromsø University, where she was undertaking an MA.

Janet was an inspirational and charismatic individual, totally committed to her students and her teaching. She was a first-rate classroom practitioner, who brought admirable drive, plentiful ideas and passion to her subject. Colleagues and pupils admired and respected her unstinting dedication.

In addition to these admirable qualities as a teacher, Janet contributed very significantly to the extra-curricular life of the school community. She organized and led the Girls' Division in its participation with the BBC School News Report, for example; this was so successful that the BBC included news segments produced by pupils as models of excellence on the DVD they sent to schools.

Janet also ran the highly successful SLAMBassadors workshops, (promoted to schools by the Poetry Society), and she developed strong and imaginative cross-curricular links with a range of departments.

As a form tutor, Janet was outstanding: members of 9JaH were extremely well cared for with Janet's unbeatable combination of no-nonsense, straight-talking and her desire to understand and support her tutees.

Janet was an inspiring and compassionate colleague: we will miss her and we wish her every happiness in her Scandinavian life.

JCA

Mark Harbord

Mark retired from King's after a 35-year career that was remarkable in its service to the school as well as its input into the sporting, academic and social development of countless King's pupils. Joining the school in 1977 from Loughborough University, Mark taught PE and History, in addition to coaching the 1st teams in cricket and rugby, with great success. Mark will be remembered as a firm, but fair teacher who thought carefully about the boys in his care, prepared effectively and created a supportive, engaging atmosphere through his understanding of the pupils and his communication with them. Being able to think and communicate on a teenage boys' level is a key skill in the management of pupils and Mark had that instinctive skill which encouraged boys to respect and trust him.

Coming from a farming background, Mark also had common sense and a hardworking, honest approach that he passed on to the boys.

As a sports coach, Mark's enthusiasm and knowledge was second to none. As a sportsman himself, he played in 1st teams for cricket and rugby at Monmouth School, and was involved in the Glamorgan County Cricket set up and with rugby at Lydney (then a close competitor of Gloucester and Bristol) before continuing with both sports at Loughborough.

Although Mark enjoyed teaching, he always said that his greatest pleasure came from sports coaching, which he undertook with great success. As a Head of Cricket, Mark took King's into a situation where its cricket was nationally recognized, including a national U15 final played at Trent Bridge. In rugby, he enjoyed a series of successes, including an U15 Daily Mail vase final, triumphs at the Sedbergh Tens competition and several significant Sevens competition wins. Mark always coached attractive, but pragmatic sport and was adept at identifying team, and individual, strengths and weaknesses, in both King's teams and the opposition they faced. Furthermore, he was a shrewd team manager who involved as many individuals as possible, but always attempted to put them in a situation that stretched and challenged without overwhelming.

In the latter stages of his career, Mark saw the introduction of academic PE and also became involved in the Gold Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, to the point where he undertook his mountain leader training, which led to many adventures in the Lake District and Snowdonia. Again, Mark employed his unflappable nature and understanding of the students to great effect, occasionally in difficult and challenging circumstances.

In retirement, Mark will continue his interest in sport, notably golf and the outdoors, often with the King's 'old-lags' walking group, but most significantly he will spend more time with Lyn and his family. Mark will be missed by both students and colleagues: we wish him well for a long and happy retirement.

CST

Chris Hollis

Chris Hollis arrived at King's in 1981 and spent the first two years of his career combining his Science teach-

ing duties with the completion of his doctorate – no small feat in the light of a timetable that made little allowance for his status as a new teacher, requiring him to teach at every age level in the Senior School. Since then, he has always been ready to take on a heavy workload for the benefit of pupils and colleagues alike. Sixth Form students have valued his wise advice on their choices and applications for further education, whilst colleagues have greatly appreciated his patience and support in the role of Union Representative.

The principal driving force behind Chris's teaching, is his passion for Physics and his eagerness to share his insights with others. He was always ready to surrender hours of his free time to help enquiring minds. Chris held responsibilities as Head of Year, Head of Physics, two stints as Head of Science and has been on numerous committees tasked with ensuring positive developments for the school. His extra-curricular work included numerous variations on the theme of Physics and Engineering clubs and projects; rugby; hockey (along with the associated tours) and, more recently, sailing. His involvement with sailing typifies his approach to school life: years ago, Chris answered a crisis call to drive a minibus to Scotland at a few days' notice. He went on the sailing trip and has been on the annual trip and weekly sessions at Redesmere, ever since.

Chris attributes the longevity of his stay at King's to the strong, positive working relationships he enjoyed with colleagues and the pleasure of teaching literally thousands of well-motivated students. Over the years, the Physics Department benefited enormously from the wealth of original worksheets, teaching notes and PowerPoint presentations he generated and freely shared. His penetrating statistical analysis and mastery of the spreadsheet, helped the Department to run like a well-oiled Wimshurst machine.

Chris had a remarkable attendance record at King's, years going by without a single day off. On those rare occasions, his absence has been noticed most by a quietness in the department – we will miss his readiness to share an anecdote and repeat the same old jokes!

New challenges await Chris at the Grammar School at Leeds while his wife, Lesley, will continue in her many roles as a member of our Support

Staff: she will be able to keep him up to date with the latest developments at King's. The Science Department has enjoyed considerable success during the years in which Chris has been Head of Department. We wish him every success in his future endeavours and will do our best to carry forward the valuable legacy he leaves.

PI

Mark Hornby

At the end of the Academic year, we saw the departure of Assistant Care-taker Mark Hornby. Mark was a very popular character around the school: his jovial persona always made both support and teaching staff smile. During his time at King's, Mark was blessed with the birth of his son Vinny, and a Cypriot wedding to his wife, Poppy. We thank him for his contributions to King's and we wish all the very best to him and his family.

PBJ

Jill Illingworth

Jill has been part of the King's community for an amazing 33 years, firstly as a spouse to Peter, then as a parent and from 1996 onwards as a member of staff.

Jill joined King's from Hulme Hall and brought with her a wealth of experience to take up her initial role as Office Manager. She applied her exceptional organisational and managerial skills to the role and successfully ran many of the school's support functions for nearly 10 years. However, her skills were much in demand and Jill was invited to join the Admissions Department in 2005, working alongside Christine Harrison and Linda Green.

Jill was a huge success with prospective families, being able to draw on her incredible knowledge of the school and speak as a parent, as well as being a member of the Admissions team. There are many King's parents who have spoken highly of Jill's professionalism, kindness and understanding and who have cited her personal touch as the reason for joining King's. It would be remiss not to mention Jill's encyclopaedic knowledge, attention to detail and her role in many successful Open Evenings, Open Mornings, prep school events and entrance examinations.

Jill made an outstanding contribution to the Admissions Department and to the school as a whole for many years and she will be very much missed by her friends and colleagues.

CJ

Val Kendal

Val Kendall joined the school in 1994 and quickly became invaluable as the Secretary to the Sixth Form Division. In that time, she saw many changes in the Sixth Form, including a brand new building.

She served with three different Principals of Sixth Form, who were all profoundly grateful for her discretion, warmth, tact and utter reliability. She was a very good friend to many colleagues and consistently displayed an essential good humour and calmness in the face of any problem.

Val was legendarily tactful and her willingness to help often led her to give up her free time to support the school. She had a genuine affection for the students and took a great interest in making sure they were well-supported by the Sixth Form Office staff. Her attention to detail and her ability to plan ahead were particular strengths. Val leaves King's for what we hope will be a long and happy retirement with her husband Steve. It is typical of Val that she views her retirement as an opportunity to help her children with their childcare – she is certainly an active and supportive grandma.

Val has been a wonderful asset to the school, dedicating what has been outstanding service to King's, and to the Sixth Form in particular, for more than nineteen years. Both pupils and staff will miss her and we all wish her well in her retirement.

RHR

Patrick Livingstone

After three years with the Economics and Business Studies department, Patrick is heading back to Liverpool. Patrick has been a real asset to the department where his positive attitude towards teaching and learning proved popular with the students, whilst I certainly appreciated having a fellow Celt in the department. Patrick also took on the unenviable task of teaching three separate A levels in his first two years, adding Government and Politics to his repertoire, and it is a sad loss for King's that such a versatile teacher is moving on. Patrick also fully immersed himself in the extra-curricular offerings at King's, coaching rugby and taking ownership of Student Investor and Chance to be Chancellor activities. He toured Canada with the senior rugby squad, acting as tour photographer and warm-up specialist. It is perhaps the staff football team that will miss Patrick the most; the pacy Irishman

regularly coached Sixth Form footballers each Friday after school. His cultured left boot provided many a goal for the staff team and, in turn, enabled numerous victories over the young upstarts in the Sixth Form, for this ageing team.

We will miss him and we wish Patrick well in all his future endeavours.

JSM

Rachel Maddocks

Rachel joined the History Department at King's in 2004 from Boston Grammar School. Her engaging teaching style and determination to see every student achieve to their maximum quickly made her popular with her classes. She wore many hats in her time at King's, including three years as Head of General Studies as well as time spent as a hockey coach. Innovation has been one of Rachel's watchwords, not least by creating from scratch the Government and Politics department, which she led and developed with great passion and success in the last three years. Further innovative moves include the planning and leading of an extremely popular History and Politics trip to Washington and New York, as well as the development of the Equestrian squad, including its incorporation into the D of E programme with a three day trek!

Throughout her time at the school, several Sixth Form classes also benefited from her advice and unwavering support in her role as a Sixth Form tutor and a number went on to study both History and Government and Politics at various universities. We wish her every success in her new Post as Head of Government and Politics at Denstone College.

MSR

Christine Morton

Christine joined King's from Loreto in September 2004. Spanish had arrived at King's the previous year and my own first few months in the job convinced me that what we needed was a Head of Spanish who would develop the subject further. Christine came to the school full of ideas and inspiration, determined to fulfil her brief, to launch the language at King's.

She established herself as a popular, warm and effective teacher. She worked cooperatively, so that within a short time we had moved from a situation where Spanish was studied, by a select minority of pupils, in an intensive two-year GCSE course, to a

Hail & Farewell

mainstream language taught throughout the Boys', Girls' and Sixth Form divisions.

Christine gave unstintingly of her time. Even during a period when she was busy building the Spanish Department, as a dedicated Head of Year, she could frequently be seen at lunchtimes, coaching and encouraging her students at all levels. She was always able to see the positive and the potential in individuals and to work on their better sides. As a form tutor over several years, she was renowned for her approachable, informal style, caring genuinely for her tutees.

Christine was closely involved in the trips programme: she played a large part in organizing and accompanying a rugby tour to Spain; initiated and ran popular and successful language trips to Mar Menor and Valladolliid, and was a frequent helper with the French exchange to La Rochelle. She also went on the Paris and ski trips and was a great team player, over several years, on the Year 7 château trip. She set up an Hispanic cinema club, was an experienced practitioner within the classroom, and as an AQA examiner.

As she moves on to Withington, we wish her well, believing that *Con un cambio de actividad se renuevan las energias* - a change is as good as a rest. We hope she enjoys her new role and wish her all the best. King's will not be the same without her.

IED

Michael Patey-Ford

Michael retired from teaching in July, though he will continue to be the school's graphic designer, a role in which he, in large part, has created and sustained what is widely recognized as the King's 'brand'. For more than 20 years, he has designed all King's marketing, everything from advertising and admissions materials, to stationery, signage and vehicle livery. The creation and evolution of the school's website, the prospectus, every edition of King's Colours, and of this publication, reflect the consistency and quality of Michael's design vision.

Michael started teaching in the ICT department in September 1991 and was soon involved in another significant project when the Fence Avenue site was established in 1993. His vision for a Resource Centre at the heart of the Division, that would integrate traditional library facilities with the latest digital technology, was realised

in the new development: to this day, it remains a dynamic, creative environment for both staff and pupils.

Michael shared his professional design and printing knowledge to develop those abilities in his pupils: the work they produced was always of the highest standard. He also taught the City & Guilds qualification, superseded by the ECDL, and was a stalwart of this qualification, preparing and marking thousands of tests. As a result of his dedication, hundreds of girls progressed successfully through the qualification and the department will be very sorry to lose him as a teacher. Michael has always been very popular with pupils, staff and the wider King's community: I know he will continue to have a huge impact on the school as he continues in his design role. I also know his pupils will miss him.

COD

John Pattison

This year, we sadly say 'farewell' to our much-loved Head of Department, Dr Pattison. John taught at King's for 17 years, serving as Head of Department for seven of these. He is the most passionate biologist you could ever wish to meet and his great enthusiasm and immense knowledge will be difficult to replace. John immersed himself fully in all aspects of his teaching and was an inspiration to colleagues and pupils alike.

John's contributions to other areas of school life included an active contribution to the PSHE programme, the organization of a Speakers' Club and an invaluable commitment to the Crossfire meetings. Another contribution to school life worthy of note, is the fantastic Animal House which he kept. Two rooms filled with snakes, terrapins, alongside tanks full of fish and axolotl, attracted boys every lunchtime and acted as a magnet to visitors during tours and Open Events.

John will be greatly missed. We wish him all the very best for the future and we look forward to hearing about his future endeavours.

HLB

Alison Powell

Alison joined the school in 1992 as Foundation Nurse. In the 21 years since then, she has looked after countless pupils and members of staff and helped King's manage many changes, including the introduction of the Girls' and Junior Divisions. Alison has been a great asset to the school, showing

care and compassion to those around her, as well as those who needed her professional attentions. We wish her, and her husband Barry, happiness in her retirement.

TDS

Geoff Shaw

Geoff retired after serving 111 terms at King's: his contribution to the school is truly monumental and deserves high recognition. He began at King's as a Maths Teacher in the Senior School in September 1976, took on the role of Master i/c External Exams in 1982 and then transferred to the Junior Department in September 1983 as Deputy Head. Geoff became Principal of the Junior Division in September 1992. He oversaw the Division's move from Cumberland Street into new premises at Fence Avenue in 1993 and the opening of the Infant Department in 1997. In his time as Principal, his kind and caring personality endeared him to pupils, staff and parents alike. Geoff was a natural teacher; he wanted every pupil in the Division to achieve their potential and he delighted in their successes.

He was an enthusiastic maths teacher and gave up many lunchtimes to offer extra maths lessons, both to support and enrich the children's learning. His love of sport led him to coach both football and cricket, often transporting teams to matches and joining in with the singing in the minibus!

He remained in that post until August 2009, when he stepped down to return to teaching Maths in the Senior School. For the few years before retirement, Geoff was an outstanding Form Tutor, and a wonderfully supportive, highly effective Maths teacher in all three divisions. Geoff took on a host of additional roles, such as organising the Maths challenges for Years 7-13, which involved the selection and organisation of hundreds of pupils each year. He has, virtually singlehanded, taken the Chess Club to new heights and introduced inter-school matches (in which we have a successful record). Geoff and his myriad contributions to King's, its pupils and staff, will be remembered with great affection. We will miss him but wish him much happiness in his retirement.

PJC/AJL

Christine Warr

Christine Warr joined the newly formed Senior School After-School

team in September 2009. Her calm approach with pupils and her ability to deal with all the unusual situations one encounters at the end of a typical school day, made her a much-valued colleague. We wish her the very best in her retirement.

LS

Ann-Marie Whalley

Ann-Marie joined the Economics and Business Studies department four years ago and has been an asset since day one. She is an excellent classroom practitioner and caring Sixth Form tutor, who introduced a number of innovative methods for teaching to the department. She fully involved herself in many departmental extra-curricular activities, such as Young Enterprise and the Challenge of management, while at the same time dedicating her time to the Duke of Edinburgh Award programme and the hugely successful Fashion show. Ann-Marie also took on the role of Head of Sixth Form PSHE, where she redesigned the programme over the course of her tenure, in order to meet the ever-changing needs of Years 12 and 13.

Ann-Marie is leaving to start an adventure with her fiancé Danny, who is also a teacher. They have accepted positions at schools in Hong Kong and intend to use their new location to explore further the wonders of South East Asia. With just a smidgen of jealousy, I wish her all the best for the future; the students in Hong Kong don't know how lucky they are to have Miss Whalley teaching them.

JSM

Valerie White

Valerie joined the King's School in September 1994. The Girls' Division had just taken in its first cohort in 1993, so this was a particularly exciting time for the school. Valerie was appointed Senior Subject Teacher for History, where she made her mark in the department, breaking away from the traditional GCSE curriculum, to introduce the popular SHP modular history course in the Girls' Division. This proved a very successful legacy, which has seen many girls go on to study History at A Level and beyond.

There is no doubting Valerie's love of her subject: she is a natural historian. But in particular, Valerie loves local history. To this end, she planned and led numerous trips exploring the Silk Industry in Macclesfield, the Cotton Industry at Quarry Bank Mill, the Cold

War at RAF Cosworth, the Industrial Revolution at Blists Hill and the Slave Trade at Liverpool's International Slavery Museum. Valerie has always been determined to encourage pupils to engage with history at first hand and stimulates their interest through practical experience.

Valerie was also committed to the pastoral work of the school: she was Head of Year 9 before her promotion to the role of Vice Principal at Fence Avenue in 2000. Valerie's eye for detail and genuine charm touched the hearts of staff and pupils alike. She always had time for people, whether they are colleagues, pupils, governors or parents: Valerie is a 'people person'. She enjoys the art of conversation, is an expert in her field and is very eloquent. Valerie's assemblies have proved memorable - especially the one entitled 'Rebel Without a Cause'. Another assembly that Valerie liked to give each year was on Remembrance Day as again, the historian in her could not let the day go by, without explaining what and whom we were remembering. Valerie has both led and accompanied many tours to the Battlefields of World War One, inspiring a generation of boys and girls, through her expertise and enthusiasm. In more recent years, Valerie branched out and accompanied History trips to Russia and China. I am sure that she will be using her retirement to explore even more exotic venues.

Valerie was an outstanding Vice Principal and no one was surprised when she was appointed Senior Teacher for Staff Development across the King's Foundation, and joined the Senior Management Team. It was in this role that Valerie's people skills shone through, as she inducted all new colleagues, guided NQTs through their probationary year and trained staff in High Impact Teaching skills. Valerie established a very high standard in her delivery of the NQT conferences at the Derby Fields. Her approach has always been to share good practice and invite young teachers to come and inspire those others who have been at the chalkface for a little longer. Valerie made friends across all the Divisions and will be sorely missed by those friends and colleagues, but we all wish her well in her retirement and thank her for her vast contribution to the History Department, the Girls' Division and the life of King's School.

EPO

Valete

Alan Cooper 1927-2013

Alan Cooper, who died on 28 February, aged 85, will be remembered as one of the greatest headmasters of the King's School, an institution he cherished and stewarded for twenty-one years.

Alan arrived at King's in April 1966. He was a Scholar of The Queen's College, Oxford and a former Head of Maths at King's College, Taunton and Dulwich College in London. Alan presided over a period of considerable change at King's and masterminded the transition from county grammar school to full independence in 1979. Keen to preserve access to the school from as broad a social background as possible, he welcomed the introduction of the Assisted Places scheme in 1981, whilst in 1986, school admission was opened to girls.

Alan believed passionately in the King's ideal of a broad and balanced education with opportunities for both academic success and personal development. He was the living embodiment of this educational vision. Before Oxford, he won a scholarship to Bradford Grammar School and as a schoolboy, he played rugby for Yorkshire. At Oxford he won a Blue and, during national service, he played in the fêted Royal Signals' team that took on the Springbok in 1951.

King's has never been rich in financial endowments or land-holdings, but despite this, Alan relentlessly pushed forward some impressive developments. The Percyvale Science Building opened in the mid-1970s, and the purchase of twenty acres for the Derby Fields has provided generations of sportsmen and women with a first-class arena. The Alan Cooper Library, his final major project, still bears witness to his remarkable contribution.

Outside the school, Alan was an immediately recognisable figure in the locality. He was an active member of the Civic Society, President of the Macclesfield Branch of the WEA and a member of the District Health Authority. He served as both Secretary and Chairman of the North-West Division of the Head Masters' Conference.

For many King's former pupils, including myself, Alan Cooper was a towering presence in their formative years. And if styles of headship rightly change over time, few would dispute that in those years, Alan could justifiably have claimed: *L'Ecole, c'est moi.*

SH

Academic Departments

Art

Brennand-Wood exhibition

In October, the department took Year 10 students to see the exhibition *Forever Changes* by Michael Brennand-Wood at Ruthin Craft Centre. Michael is a highly diverse and inspirational artist who has produced works in mixed media for over 30 years and his work can be seen in major public, corporate and private collections. Pupils spent a full day drawing and photographing the work and, whilst there, discovered that the artist was in the gallery, delivering a workshop. He took time to chat to the students and presented signed copies of the exhibition catalogue.

Education Art Prize

Following on from this trip, all Year 10 artists took part in the national Education Art Prize, a competition to produce a piece of work inspired by the work of Michael Brennand-Wood. In November, Sophia Bird and James Phillips (pictured above right) were selected as finalists and their work was exhibited alongside the *Forever Changes* exhibition at Ruthin. They also spent a day at Ruthin, working alongside Michael, producing new textile works under his tutelage. At the end of the day, they were each presented with prizes of art materials, copies of Michael's published works and an original textile work created by Michael.

Young Artists in Tuscany

Also in October, Harry Frost, Year 13 was selected to participate in the highly prestigious *Young Artists in Tuscany* tour. Staying in a monastery in Castiglionchio, the students toured Tuscany, taking in such inspirations as Florence, Siena, San Gimignano, Arezzo and San Sepulchro. The week was full of experiences of drawing, painting, making, as well as eating pasta and gelato, making new friends and talking late into the night. After the trip, Harry extended the work, to culminate in an exhibition at the University of Chester's gallery space in May and, for his A level work, he produced a striking wall-piece. It was an inspiring event and a fitting showcase for the work of one of our most talented students.

The Birley Exhibition

King's young artists rubbed shoulders with some of the country's most inno-



vatative art graduates, when they were invited to put on a showcase exhibition at The Birley Gallery, Manchester Metropolitan University. More than 30 students exhibited 2D, 3D and mixed media work at the month-long exhibition. The selected pieces ranged from Juniors through to GCSE and A-level pieces and included ceramics, glass, textiles, graphics, fine art and sculpture. This was a fantastic opportunity for our talented students to celebrate their achievements and show their work to the public. The exhibition was used as a teaching resource by MMU in training the next generation of art teachers.

Life Drawing

As in previous years, the services of the excellent life model, Stuart, were retained and students extended the academic side of their drawing to support their Human Form project. A large number attended the course and gained so much from the course that they continued their studies at Macclesfield College as a night class. It is becoming increasingly rare outside university to offer such a traditional, academic course in support of the students' studies.

Our Country's Good

In support of the Drama Department, a small team of artists worked on the set for *Our Country's Good* at Cumberland Street. The main set piece was a painted floorcloth to symbolise the map and journey that emigrant prisoners made. The drama studio was draped in ropes and sails to create an authentic sea-faring atmosphere.

Art Enrichment, Conwy

In March, Year 10 students took part in the highly competitive Art Enrichment Weekend for selected pupils throughout Cheshire. Students were taught in small specialist workshops, led by local artists, teachers and makers, using a variety of different media. The course is held at the impressive Conwy Outdoor Centre. The students work from the local landscape and learn skills and techniques in the workshops, where they experience a varied range of activities, including plaster casting, wire sculpture, large-scale portraiture and etching. Students are challenged and inspired not only by the teachers but also their peers. All the skills experienced are transferable and the work produced



over the weekend is often used to influence students' studies for GCSE. As ever, our pupils were first-rate ambassadors for our school. The high-quality work produced was exhibited at the Sixth Form Art Exhibition.

DAT

Creative Arts Evening

In February, Year 8 boys put on an exhibition as part of the *Creative Arts* evening, alongside D&T, Drama and Music. The boys researched how faces have inspired artists through the ages, in order to create their own ceramic masks. They also displayed work in print and textiles inspired by the work of illustrator Jon Burgerman. It was an excellent opportunity to celebrate lower school creative arts.

GCSE and A level Exhibitions

The success of the examination students was celebrated in the End of Year shows throughout May and June. The GCSE exhibitions saw students exhibiting particularly impressive works in painting, glass, ceramics, digital media and textiles at Fence Avenue and Cumberland Street. The exhibitions provided a perfect opportunity for the selection of the annual GCSE Art prizes which were awarded to Alex Moore and Sophie Brown. Dan Greer's light-based paintings drew much attention and the 'virtual cityscapes' based on Russia's Red Square, created digitally by Matt Peers, contributed to a stunning show. At Fence Avenue, Keerthana Ganesh's exam work created with hundreds of ceramic butterflies and Elizabeth Clivery Adamson's family portraits were just a few examples of the outstanding work displayed.

The A level Art Exhibition drew the year to a close for Year 12 and 13

artists. Laura King-Smith's layered, screen-printed fabrics received glowing praise from an industry professional, Winnie Spence's breathtaking book sculptures amazed all that saw them and the ceramic sculptures of David Nixon and Jonathan Emery contributed to the strongest show yet. Pride of place was taken by Harry Frost, showcasing his A level work, his EPQ study based on graphic novels, and work produced in Italy. He became a very worthy recipient of the Selwyn Russell Jones Art Prize, a fitting finale before he leaves King's for a Fine Art degree at Edinburgh University.

Year 12 at Conway

The final big event of the year was the AS into A2 Year 12 residential in Wales. 12 students took over the Conway Centre on Anglesey for the weekend. The students produced drawing, painting and sculpture works from locations such as The Marquis of Anglesey's estate and Newborough beach and woods; the group also travelled to the mainland to visit the spectacular Dorothea Quarry. Back in the studio, the artists attended workshops on casting, glass lampworking, screenprinting and ceramic embossing. As ever, students produced beautiful work ready for their A2 coursework.

Competitions

National BookBuzz

Year 7 student Adele Le Moignan was named as a runner-up in the National BookBuzz competition to design a book cover. Adele designed a cover for *Shadow Forest* by Matt Haig. Her beautiful and imaginative design caught the attention of the judges and she was named as one of the runners-up in this year's competition.

The First Cut

To coincide with Manchester City Art Gallery's *The First Cut* exhibition, a competition was held for students to produce an artwork made solely from paper. Year 9 pupil, Olivia Hamblin, was awarded the runner-up prize in the 12-17 age group. Olivia's piece, *Butterflies*, was a delicate and intricate work inspired by Claire Brewster's birds from *The First Cut* exhibition. Her work was displayed at Manchester Art Gallery from November 2012 until January 2013, making it much admired by a very wide audience. The artwork is now part

of the permanent collection of DAC Beachcroft, Manchester, an international law firm and sponsor of the *First Cut* exhibition. Olivia also won a day's workshop at Manchester Art Gallery with professional artists who use paper.

Merchant Taylors' Photography

In the autumn term, students participated in a photography competition sponsored by the Merchant Taylors' Company. Open to all ages, the theme was *Our Sporting Heritage*. The expertise of King's photographers was once again recognised in the award of prizes to Stephanie Redfern and Jonathan Emery. The work was selected for exhibition at the Merchant Taylors' Hall in Threadneedle Street, London during December.

Cheshire Life Calendar

Another photographic success saw Adam Boulton-Rawlinson in Year 8 having one of his photographs selected for the 2013 Cheshire Life calendar. Adam is a keen photographer, whose passion for the art started after taking a few pictures on his Dad's iPhone. Using a far more sophisticated digital SLR, Adam's image, entitled *Hanging On*, captured a delicate image of the autumn countryside. It was a real honour to have Adam's work featured alongside professional photographers' work, for all to enjoy throughout the year of 2013.

Rugby Kit Competition

The success of the photography competition was followed by an opportunity for students to be involved in designing kit for the Rugby Sevens to wear this year. There were a huge number of entries from across the senior school. Scrutinised by the design team at Kukri, the very striking



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entry by Sion Davenport, Year 7, was declared the winner. Further commendations and prizes were awarded to Sam Cockayne, Harry Wallace, Charlie Toms, Oscar Johnson, Stephanie Redfern and Luke Gray.

Warhammer Championship

During its first full year as part of the expanding enrichment on offer, two King's School's teams qualified for the national finals of the British School's Warhammer championships. The '40K Team' was first and the 'Fantasy Team' third in the North-West regional heats.

Mrs Campbell has led the boys to victory, playing a battlefield game of subtlety, skill and strategy and the King's teams featured some outstanding young players who take great pride in developing fabulous model armies.

DAT (MA)

Finally, another of our talented staff, Mrs Threlfall, graduated with an MA from MMU in Creative Arts Practice. In addition to all of the cutting-edge educational experience that this enables her to bring to the classroom, she will be exhibiting her final MA personal practice work in Manchester.

DI



Biology

Biology Club

The Biology Club meets every Monday and club members look after the fish and snakes kept in the animal house. The Club is proud to announce it had great success in maintaining fish stocks this year. There were exciting additions to the animal house as three super, little Axolotl joined: they are ably cared for by three sixth form biologists: Kate Garnett, Joanna Dyson and Millie Beresford. The Year 7 members of Biology Club enjoyed a trip to Creature Comforts to purchase some new stock for the fish tanks. These purchases included Tiger Barbs, Siamese Fighters and a Red-tailed Black Shark.

The Biology Garden

The Biology Garden received some much needed attention, as some Year 13 students used shovels and spades to clear weeds.

Field Trip

The A Level Field Trip to Anglesey in September, provided biologists with

an opportunity to study living organisms in natural habitats; the focus was both Rocky Shore and Sand Dune habitats. The primary interest was investigating the battle for survival both against the ravages of the tides and between different individual species for space and food. A visit to Anglesey Sea Zoo allowed students to see aquatic fauna and flora close up.

Tegg's Nose Fieldwork

Year 12 students took part in a visit to Tegg's Nose where they gained their first proper experience of ecological techniques and field-work. It was a very enjoyable and educationally valuable experience for all involved: quadrats and transects are now familiar terminology.

Nowgen

Year 13 students became real scientists for the day as they used PCR (Polymerase Chain reaction) techniques to discover a little about their own genetic make up.

River Bollin

The annual trip for Year 9 students to the River Bollin allowed younger biologists to get their first taste of field-work. The aim of the visit was to investigate the water quality in the river; students were delighted to discover that the water in the River Bollin is becoming cleaner. The number of fish caught was also indicative of good water quality and caused much excitement.

HLB

Chemistry

Chemistry Club underwent a transformation this year and was renamed 'Senior Chemistry Society'. A hard-core contingent of Year 11 and Year 12 students attended weekly, bursting with ideas and keen to explore Chemistry beyond the confines of the examination specifications. The main projects for the autumn term were the perfection of the 'barking dog' experiment and the recovery of precious metals from old computer mother boards. It took several weeks

to obtain and extract a fraction of a gram of gold, but much fun was had by all and several old computer components were given a good home. In the spring term, the team moved on to the preparation of small amounts of silanes which react spontaneously with air, to give spectacular but harmless small explosions, lasting for several minutes. A glimmer of fine weather in the summer term was all that was needed to bring out the Chemistry department bazooka. Well done to Isaac Brough in Year 11 for designing and manufacturing an even bigger and even better piece of kit for use on the front field. With this new design and discovery of a near-perfect fuel, (very cheap hairspray), the tennis ball reached new heights and the bazooka itself very rarely misfired.

In June, Paul Thompson took two teams to the RSC Chemquiz competition at Manchester University. The boys' team was: Alex Fray, Oliver Prior and Alex Galbraith and the girls' team was: Beth and Megan Whiteley, Rachel Catlin and Rosie Turner. The pupils from Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 were chosen not only for their ability in Chemistry, but also for their problem-solving skills and ability to lead or work as part of a team. They took part in a series of workshops including practical work and quizzes, and were scored on their performance in each area. Out of a field of more than thirty schools, the girls' team secured a very commendable 11th place and the boys' managed 19th place.

David Ormrod-Morley secured a place to read Chemistry at Lady Margaret Hall college Oxford: we wish him well for the future.

LCW

Chemistry Fence Avenue

This was another successful year for the chemistry department at the Girls' Division. The Year 10 trip to the Catalyst Museum saw 66 girls spend a day making shower gels of various flavours, some of which were safe to use whilst others were deemed over-perfumed for human use. They also made lots of silly putty and spent an hour watching the King's demonstration team get through as many GCSE-related experiments as they could in an hour. The trip was a great help for GCSE studies.

The revision sessions programme was well attended by Years 10 and 11. In addition the Open Day, Life at King's and Junior workshop day



events run by the department continued to be very successful. These events were well managed by the departmental prefect, Jenny Galbraith, who worked exceptionally hard throughout the year to promote the department and science in general. The visits of Pownall Hall School, Green Bank Prep and a number of local cub scout groups allowed the department to open its doors to the local community so that King's students could pass on their love of science.

Bangs and flashes

The King's Chemistry department demonstrations team had another

very busy year. Led by Pete Jackson, King's Head Technician the team performed within school, at the Catalyst museum and outdoors as part of the Barnaby festival. The in-school performances to Year 7 boys were timed to act as a November 5th celebration. The exploding methane bubbles were a favourite this year; the incredible noise created a sound wave that echoed round the room.

The annual performance at the Catalyst Museum was well attended with four schools sending students to watch the two performances. None of the students from the visiting schools had seen the huge range of demonstrations that King's does and students were in awe of the huge explosions and bright flashes.

The theme of the Barnaby Festival was 'Metamorphosis' and led to the King's demonstration team being invited to perform two shows in the grounds of Christ Church in Macclesfield. The weather and the outdoor venue proved very challenging; Pete Jackson had to employ all his skills to make the experiments work and avoid covering the audience in dangerous chemicals. After a few hours of preparation and practice, the team performed their first show to an audience of around 100. Most had never seen the show before and were soon wowed by exploding jelly babies, exploding balloons and the sight of pop bottle rockets flying into the air. The two biggest cheers were for the home-made bazooka and the foam worm. The bazooka launched tennis balls as high as the tower to gasps of amazement from the crowd. The giant worm was very entertaining in the high wind and was a favourite of the



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younger members of the audience.

By the second show, word had travelled and there had even been postings on Facebook, so the audience grew to more than 200. This performance was possibly even better than the first and every reaction was greeted with cheers and gasps. The highlight of this show was the liquid nitrogen which created a huge fog over the grounds that all the children enjoyed running through. It finished with yet another tennis ball being flung higher than the church and the audience left, excited and happy to have seen some real science delivered in the great outdoors.

JSS

Design & Technology

There were a number of changes to build into the department this year. Mr Steele took charge of D&T at Fence Avenue, and a welcome friend, Mr Gee, returned on a part-time basis. Both made major contributions and the department could not have achieved all that it did without their help.

Year 7 tackled three projects: a simple key ring, a more challenging and very successful USB light, and an organiser, allowing the pupils to experience wood metals and plastics. The PIC project and the mechanical toy proved popular with Year 8 pupils. Year 9 pupils tackled a packaging exercise, making chocolate moulds in their own shapes to package in the boxes they had designed. A design and make project followed, producing iPod Speakers. Designs and outcomes were superb and many of these items are now at home being used to the full by the pupils.

At GCSE, Year 10 pupils were to develop good clocks using a period of design history as a starting point alongside projects to support the knowledge content of the syllabus. Year 11 worked hard on their Coursework project to produce some superb pieces.

Six Year 11 pupils applied for an Arkwright scholarship. This prestigious award is designed to support a career in engineering. Matthew Peers (pictured) won one of these awards and will receive a £300 bursary for each of his two years in the Sixth Form.

Several other activities took place this year including the Lego League competition; a creative evening for

Year 8 boys (in collaboration with other departments); an internal competition for a scale model of a radio-controlled Ferrari; team of pupils won a Faraday Day and Mr Steele took a STEM trip to Sheffield University.

In addition, the Jewellery Club at Fence Avenue proved exceptionally popular and Mrs Campbell, the department technician, was kept very busy ensuring that creativity was always challenged. Mrs Campbell also achieved success in the national final of the fantasy gaming competition with a group of enthusiastic pupils.

Exhibition

In association with the Sixth Form Art exhibition, the D&T department had real pleasure in showing the work of the GCSE product design groups. Products ranged from clocks and tables at GCSE, to lighting, bedroom furniture, a traditional go-kart and

outdoor seating made by Sixth Form students. These products were very professional and were a credit to the pupils' hard work and enthusiasm.

We would like to thank Friends of King's for supplying us with a superb display cabinet for use within the department. This helps ensure that pupils' work can be seen and celebrated by as many as possible.

Faraday Challenge Day

Following an invitation from the University of Manchester to take part, Mr Nichols put together a crack team of creative and imaginative thinkers from Year 8. On the day, the teams were challenged to design and make a communication system, which had to run between two villages caught in a natural disaster area.

The teams undertook some basic training in electrical connections and creating circuits. Teams could pur-





chase materials within a strict budget, all of which had to be accounted for by a team member, who acted as a project manager. Teams had to use available materials and create a code to transmit the message. Competition for the best device was hard, but the King's team won the day. The team of Edward Hammonds, Katie Hastings, Angus Homer, Libby Kirk, Ben Lauber, and Amy Morris did amazingly well in creating their own code and a super-effective device, which they presented convincingly to the panel of judges. The team was awarded the Winners' trophy and all had certificates to support their success. Clearly, King's has imaginative and creative engineers within its ranks and the future looks bright.

Faraday iPad Competition

Students were challenged to design an innovative communication device based on a number of themes, using future technology. They had to explain how their idea could be made and explore the science and engineering principles needed to make it work. 80 pupils entered for this national competition. Pupils' ideas were imaginative and made good use of their technical knowledge, so we await the results with interest.

F1 Ferrari

Following the donation of a 1:10 scale model of an F1 Ferrari, the department challenged students to design a multi use vehicle capable of travel on land, underwater and in the air. It was not an easy competition but there was a good range of entries. Matt Peers,

Year 11 won with his highly detailed and innovative design: the cut-aways and sections particularly impressed the judges with their sophistication and he was a worthy recipient of the scale model. Congratulations also went to Sean Odell, John Le Moignan, Ben Rowbottom and Harry Wallace for producing fine examples.

First Lego League

The Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET) run this competition and it is becoming steadily more competitive. The title was 'Senior Solutions' and the competition revolved around the theme of assisting the over-60s with their daily challenges.

Lego League is never easy, but it's great fun and really taxing. It is key that teams work together well to research and propose solutions to the problems faced. The robot game was particularly challenging this year and lots of ideas were proposed about shape and form, before finalising the robot. The team focused up on the idea that memory loss may be significant and they worked up an excellent presentation which proposed a device to allow people to find the most important things quickly and easily around the home.

Competition day at Legoland Discovery Centre saw the team performing well, and the team made the final yet again. The final is always based on two runs and King's team did really well in the first run, but sadly, AI took the competition. The team was awarded a consolatory trophy for programming and robot design.

Creative Options Evening CS

This evening was an opportunity to display Year 8 creative talents. For D&T, boys designed a small music player, based on a PIC chip. These chips are small, programmable devices, which the boys learn to assemble into a circuit, then to program to produce tunes and flashing LEDs. Pupils also designed and made a container for the circuitry. The display of work was excellent, with a huge variety of gadgets on show.

JN

STEM

Year 8 girls attended a First Edition STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) event at Sheffield Hallam University. The event was aimed at promoting careers in design, manufacture and engineering to those who might not always consider this career. Girls are a particular target for such initiatives, as they are under-represented as employees in these areas.

The first activity required participants to produce a bridge using K'nex to span a distance of 300mm. The bridges were tested with weights to see which was the strongest and a group of King's girls won this activity. The second challenge was to produce a wind turbine using materials purchased from central stores. A hair dryer test was used to determine who could produce the highest voltage reading from the most efficient turbine.

The audience also enjoyed a careers talk and videos promoting STEM, providing much food for thought about future careers.

GBS

Drama

Our Country's Good

The main school production was *Our Country's Good* by Timberlake Wertenbaker; an intellectually dramatic account of the first British penal colonies set up in Australia at the end of the 18th century. It portrays efforts to stage a production of George Farquar's *The Recruiting Officer*, using the conflict-ridden process as a metaphor for examining and debating issues such as how to create a civilised society; what is considered to be important educationally and how to punish appropriately those deemed to have done something wrong.

The theatrical intensity of the play is heightened by the cast doubling up as officers and convicts. The highly committed cast rehearsed over a six-month period in order to come to grips with the considerable demands of the language and philosophical concepts involved. The finished product was delivered to much critical acclaim. This was an ensemble piece in the true sense of the word and as such it is extremely difficult to single out individual performances: however, Josh Keeling was superbly

powerful as Lieutenant Clark who is entrusted to the directing of the play. He conveyed with great maturity an individual who, on the one hand is meek and charitable, but who also discovers along the way that he has a core of steel. Shirko Abid reflected with great skill and passion both the disturbingly tormented Midshipman Harry Brewer and the highly idiosyncratic Captain Campbell. Ollie Stevens was able to portray with some fine acting both the hard-nosed, unforgiving bully Major Ross and the soft-hearted hard-done-by hangman Ketch Freeman. Jenny Pinches gave a magnificently gritty and edgy version of the seemingly doomed convict Liz Morden. Grace Fletcher produced all the sensitivity required – and more – in her interpretation of the convict Mary Brenham, for whom putting on the play is a highly educational process – in more ways than one.

Becky Hughes played Mary's long-term friend and Devon-starved Dabby with lovely humour and passion. Will Strutt had us rolling in the aisles as the theatrically melodramatic convict Sideways, contrasting this wonderfully with the significantly more focused Captain Collins. Ollie

Riordan produced real emotional depth of character as the illiterate and passionate convict John Arscott, as well as the cynical Captain Tench and less-than-civilised convict, Shitty Meg. Alex Langton delivered an appropriately gravitas performance of the wordsmith, John Wisehammer, with George Walker providing excellent authoritative focus as Captain Arthur Phillip – the liberal Governor and initiator of the whole theatrical project.

Year 9 and 10 pupils, Sam Brown, Aarian Mehrabani, Ben Lynch and John Le Moignan interpreted their key roles with commendable maturity and skill.

The venue of the Drama Hall was a great success in rooting the whole piece in a claustrophobic, heat-oppressive environment, aided hugely by the Art department's symbolically effective, composite set design.

Alex Moore stage-managed everything from the beginning of rehearsals to the clearing of the set after the final performance, with all the commitment, organisation and energy of a true professional, helped along the way by enthusiastic techies, Tom Lynch and Ken Tomlinson.

DAF



Our Day Out

November saw the Fence Avenue Hall transformed with a beautiful backdrop painted by Rachel Richards and her team. The set consisted of wooden blocks used by the cast to create scene locations such as the bus, the castle and the zoo. *Our Day Out* is a sad and humorous play written by Willy Russell with lively songs which supplement the action and expertly played by Linda Pyatt.

The cast included girls from Year 7 through to Year 11. Their talent, enthusiasm and professionalism made this a memorable show. Sophie Brown played the domineering Bus Driver with excellent comic timing. Juliette Gorb and Sacha Allen played convincing teachers, with style and maturity. The school children on the trip were played with energy and fun. Most actors had to multi-role and Anna Watson, Nicole Hughes and Sophie Elton played such convincing boys that Sophie's family did not recognise her.

This was a 'feel good' show with poignant moments which created powerful changes in mood and pace. The audience's laughter and applause made this a most successful evening's entertainment.

CPT

Year 7 Performance

This annual event took place in July in the Fence Avenue Hall. It involved every Year 7 student and they performed for over a hundred family members. 7LAC devised their version of *Alice in Wonderland*, 7CJAF created their version of *Beauty and the Beast* and 7EB delighted us with their interpretation of *Matilda*. Their talent, energy and insight made this a most entertaining night.

CPT

LAMDA

Sixth Form students, Years 11, 10 and 9 girls all prepared monologues or duologues in readiness for their LAMDA examinations, which took place at the end of April.

They selected speeches from the 16th-century through to post-1980. The students must read the play, understand character, learn lines and perform their selected speech with clarity and confidence. There were a record number of students participating and Examiners were delighted with the standard of performances.

CPT



Economics & Business Studies

This year saw big changes in the department. After four years' service, Miss Whalley relocated to Hong Kong, while Mr Livingstone returned to Liverpool after three years in the department. We wish them all the best for the future and thank them for their hard work and enthusiasm.

Transport Economics Conference

In October, A2 Economics students attended a Transport Economics Conference at Huddersfield University. Many economic professionals, as well as the Chief Examiner of Economics, Colin Bamford, who provided case studies and economic discussion, attended. The conference helped the students to prepare for examination and consolidate their understanding of topics.

Coca Cola

In March, an enthusiastic group of Business Studies students visited Coca Cola's factory in Wakefield. The students were interested in seeing operational strategies put into practice, such as the use of technology, production lines, and waste management systems, whilst also expanding their knowledge of Coke's marketing techniques and corporate social responsibility actions. The trip included a guided tour of the factory and a presentation on the company's

history, marketing, product portfolio and, most interestingly, the external effects that Coke has had to react to over the last few years to maintain its strong brand and market position.

Berlin Trip

A group of seventeen Year 13 Business Studies and Economics students visited Berlin, and stayed in 'trendy' East Berlin.

After navigating via the underground system to Wittenbergplatz, the group took a bus tour around the sights of Berlin, before heading to the BMW motorbike manufacturing plant. Students heard a presentation and participated in the Q&A session before moving to the production floor. There, they saw the process from design to finished product.

The following day, the group ascended the Berlin TV tower, a 365m building, resembling a Russian Sputnik. Although a little cloudy, the views were remarkable and it was an excellent vantage point to view just how much development has occurred in the city since unification. The students also visited the Berlin wall before grabbing some lunch and heading to Ritter Sport, the famous German chocolate maker. Once there, students learned about the processes involved in producing chocolate before being given the opportunity to make their own bars and design the packaging. The final visit

Academic Departments



was to *Axel Springer*, one of Europe's largest printing companies. The group (pictured above) flew home the following morning with a greater appreciation of Business and Economic issues in the real world.

Young Enterprise

This year, two teams competed against each other in Young Enterprise. The boys' team, 'Why Not?' soon encountered an innovative idea which filled a gap in the school market, led by MD Will Poyser. Their product was a unique King's water bottle, which was fashionable and reasonably priced. Popular among the lower divisions, the team processed their orders on a written reply slip system, which proved quite efficient in terms of distribution and stock control. This led to relatively good returns for 'Why Not?', requiring them to order another batch of 100 bottles.

The girls' team, led by Harriett Burrows and Coralie Robson, operated a more diversified strategy with a variety of business ventures throughout the year, which returned a comfortable profit. These included cake sales, both in school and during half-time at King's rugby matches. They tried their hands at jewellery making and also had a successful stall at the school's annual Christmas Fair.

When the time came to compete in the Regional Finals at Cheadle Hulme School, the groups compiled their business reports, trade stands and prepared for their business pitch to the entrepreneurial judges. The teams were marked on their business acumen and financial success.

The boys came away with a prize for their engaging and informative trade stand delivered by Will, George and Mike. The girls, who gave a confident and assured business pitch, narrowly missed out on the prizes for their diversified business strategy.

Both groups enjoyed the experience, learning about communication, organisational structure and teamwork, in a competitive real life business environment.

Student Investor

After many months of competing in this year's IFS Student Investor Challenge, the winners were decided. From over thirteen entrants across the divisions, a team from the sixth form claimed top spot. The challenge allowed teams of students to invest a virtual £100,000 in real-time FTSE stock prices. Teams competed online against each other and other local schools, with a chance to reach the national finals and a trip to New York.

The winning group was Livvo's Lions who made a profit, albeit virtually, of £14,138.22 from their initial investment. Isaac Reaney was the group's chief financial officer which made its return from a number of high risk investments. This wasn't enough for Livvo's Lions to reach the Regional Finals, but they enjoyed the challenging experience.

Chance to be Chancellor

Chance to be Chancellor was an opportunity for over 1,400 young people to illustrate and present to the government, a Youth Budget. This represented views on a range of pol-

icy issues from defence spending to environmental concerns. Seventy-two Year 10 girls participated in the Youth Budget during February, and contributing their thoughts and ideas. The girls displayed a maturity and grasp of events well beyond their years and many relished the opportunity to do a better job than George Osborne. The task enabled the students to discuss topics such as the appropriate level of VAT and the budget priorities of the NHS. The consensus amongst the girls was to increase tax to cut the budget deficit further. They also agreed on a forward-thinking tax on 'unhealthy' food of 1%, as well as a more long-term plan of increasing investment in adult apprenticeships by 35%. The initiative is proof that girls and boys have valuable contributions to make to the debate on public spending.

Bank of England Target 2.0

Each year, the Bank of England holds a competition for Sixth Form Economists – Target 2.0. Teams from schools around the country must present for 15 minutes on the state of the economy and how the Bank of England should ensure that the target inflation rate of 2% is achieved. Each team is also questioned by a panel of judges. King's has entered the competition for several years now and always performs well.

The team travelled to Manchester in November to compete in the regional heats, which were held at the Manchester Museum of Science and Industry. They advocated no change in the interest rate – 0.5% – and

£25bn of quantitative easing, but targeted into the hands of the consumer through vouchers. The team was grilled by the judges in a question and answer session, and forced to work together to come up with good answers to difficult economic questions about their policy choice.

The team was praised for having the most original and creative presentation and policy idea, as well as a good, clear delivery and a good performance in the question session. King's was placed 2nd; the students enjoyed the experience, finding it valuable practice for presentations and interview technique.

Investors

The Investors' Club invites speakers to the department. The opportunity for students to learn from local business leaders helps to hone students' skills and understand the real world context of what we cover in the classroom. In November local marketeer, Ed Beattie, Managing Director of Through Creative and a King's old boy was in school to share his wealth of knowledge with our A2 Business Studies students. Ed provided the students with an excellent insight into the importance of branding and targeted marketing campaigns. He also talked through career opportunities within marketing, giving advice on a number of different routes into such a career.

JSM

English

Do not judge me by my successes, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again.

Nelson Mandela

The English Department continues to foster a spirit of curiosity, creativity and excitement. We aim to instill in students a love of reading and personal pride in their own writing, as well as the patient confidence to develop their opinions in class discussion.

At the start of the academic year, we welcomed Mr Richard Griffiths to the English Department. As a Principal Examiner for the AQA English Literature iGCSE, his input to the Department is extremely valued. At Christmas we said farewell to Mrs Rachel Bateman and Ms Janet Handley and welcomed Mrs Emma Smith who has taken up a teaching posi-



tion based in the Girls' Division: her assured persona and dynamic ideas have proved real assets this year. We also hailed a dearly loved friend back to the Department – Mr Frank Walker, who worked in the Boys' and Girls' Divisions, capturing imaginations and inspiring all. Mrs Griffin became Senior Subject Teacher in the Girls' Division and quickly introduced a number of initiatives.

The start of the academic year allowed the Department to reflect on the school's best ever GCSE English Literature results, which went some way to temper the air of frustration engendered by the Examination Board's mismanagement of the English Language results.

Throughout the Autumn Term the focus for our Year 11 students was how to capitalize on progress made in Year 10. After-school revision workshops were the order of the day at the Boys' site and 'Ask an Examiner' sessions with our very own expert, Mr Griffiths, were also invaluable, while at Fence Avenue, the girls ran peer teaching sessions. Every set had its own focus. Mrs Smith's class held an *Of Mice and Men* essay workshop for their year group. The girls planned and delivered a presentation in the Resource Centre, sharing their strategies for exam success and revising the salient points of essay writing. They then managed study groups of girls from other classes, coaching them through the completion of an exam essay and sharing examples of excellent writing at the end of the lesson. It was a pleasure to see how focused and determined the girls were, both

in the delivery of the workshop and in participation. Mrs Smith's class proved to be excellent teachers and their 'pupils' found the whole experience extremely useful.

Literature in all forms was discussed in Warrington in November where two King's teams competed in the regional round of the Kids' Lit Quiz at St Gregory's Catholic High School. Competing against teams from across the North West, the King's students were full of enthusiasm and acquitted themselves well, demonstrating especially strong specialist knowledge of the fantasy genre and JK Rowling. One team member had even gone so far as to memorize the number plate of Ron Weasley's enchanted car.

The teams, composed of Alex Clarke 8TSJ, Joshua Clayfield 7SIJ, Charlotte Cramp 8TSJ, Jamie Fenwick 8RWA, Verity Griffin 8TSJ, Rebecca Ions 8TSJ, Nicolas Patigny 7GJS, Leo Skinner 8RWA and Natalie Stevens 8SJH, scored 61 and 57 points out of 100, to come mid-pack out of the twenty-three teams present. They also achieved joint first place in one of the rounds.

Earlier on in the term, members of the Department competed in their own 'Lit Quiz'. A mixed team of staff and pupils attended the Bollington Festival 'Challenge the Experts' Literary Quiz. The team, composed of Year 11 students Mioni Armstrong and Jenna Self, along with Mrs Bateman and Ms Walwyn, enjoyed pitting their wits against the other competitors including the 'expert' team of authors Bryony Pearce, Jon Mayhew, Sarwat

Chadda and Michael Symmons Roberts. It was a challenging competition and the team acquitted themselves well.

Back at school on World Book Day, 7th March, teams from both divisions competed in the annual inter-site House Book Quiz, this year held in Fence Avenue Resource Centre. The Gawsworth team emerged victorious, after a closely fought competition.

As always, the Reading Groups in both divisions have been busy this year. Groups of Year 7 boys and Year 8 girls took part in the Carnegie Medal Children's Book Award shadowing scheme. Pupils read the eight short-listed titles and posted their reviews online on the Carnegie Shadowing website. They had a great time reading and discussing the books and voting for the one they wished to see win.

Mrs Wilcox was delighted to report that the number of books being issued in the Rock Resource Centre rocketed this year with Year 8s being the biggest borrowers. Prizes were awarded to the following Key Stage 3 students who were the 'top borrowers' of their year groups: Nicolas Patigny 7GJS, Alexander Campbell 7LAT, George Bryson-Sharples 7SLJ. Year 8: Gordon Nicoll 8CEA, Siraj Lyons 8MTH, Kieran Bailey 8MTH. Year 9: Oliver Embley 9CJM, Jack Lucas 9JN, Adam Garnett 9PAUT.

Writers' visits inspire and captivate the students at King's and this year two fantastic writers shared their ideas. Jon Mayhew visited the school in February. He is the author of the *Mortlock* series: three wonderfully exciting, dark, and gruesomely gothic chillers, set in Victorian London. Year 7 were treated to a talk about his books and writing, in which he explained some of the techniques that he uses to create drama and suspense. Then in March, Year 10 were entertained by Bryony Pearce, author of *Angel's Fury*. Bryony explained how she succeeded in becoming an author, and went into detail about the ideas behind her plots, such as the intriguing Milgram Experiment.

Students had the opportunity to develop and showcase their own writing. Thirteen Sixth Formers spent a week during the Easter holidays at Ted Hughes' house, Lumb Bank in Yorkshire, living and working alongside professional writers Amanda Dalton and Tim Pears at the Arvon Foundation. A series of workshops and individual tutorials sparked impressive and hugely inventive writing by the students. Award-winning poet, Deryn Rees-Jones, gave a moving reading in the atmospheric upper barn and answered questions about being a writer and literary critic.

The students enjoyed walking in

the beautiful landscape, seeking out Sylvia Plath's grave in nearby Heptonstall, and simply taking time to sit and think in the peaceful gardens.

The trip ended with a celebration of the work done during the week as each student read from the anthology produced on the final afternoon. The work ranged from lyric poetry to surrealist drama, short stories and comic verse.

The fact that the students learned how to cook a meal for 18 people was a bonus that led to various culinary delights and only one tea towel being set on fire.

The theatre also provides students with opportunities to enrich their experience of English. In February, Year 10 took a trip to the Bolton Octagon to watch a moving performance of John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*. Watching Steinbeck's own stage adaptation gave the students a faithful representation of the text, which will prove particularly useful for their English Literature exam in Year 11. A Year 9 trip to see *The Woman in Black* was also a memorable occasion. The students were gripped with fear and the suspense was palpable.

During the Summer Term, Sixth Form Literature students visited the Buxton Opera House to watch the UK Touring Theatre's World Premiere of an exciting new English translation



The Colossus

Inspired by The Colossus by Francisco de Goya

Pain, Anger, Memories and even flares of Guilt,
but above all pain.

He moved his monstrous gaze downwards,
Midway up his thigh, it had begun to rain.
His feet carried him miles in one step,
An inaudible crash and when his foot lifted,
A pile of rubble, a pile of broken dreams and
Memories.

People said he was special and gifted,
Below, people thought it was thunder,
But it was a mirthless chuckle.
Then memories filled with pain and sadness.
His chin trembled and knees buckled.

A tear filled with helplessness
Rolled down his cheek. Then fell.
It formed a lake where it had landed. More followed.
In the distance, a town, the sound of a bell.
He moved on, a force of nature, ignoring the cries
El pánico!
He ignored it all but yet still felt the pain.

Adam Garnett 9PAUT



Fields

Inspired by Landscape from a Dream by Paul Nash

Not fields I'd ever know
But you are there,
I think,
In a redblue uncertainty
Of sunset, high tide,
The gathering storm.
An open door
Led you in,
And a closed door
Held you there.

Al Hurd 9CJM

of *Miss Julie*. Banned in the UK for 50 years when first written, *Miss Julie* shocked critics across Europe with its frank portrayal of inter-class relationships. Although the performances failed to convince at times, the students agreed that the experience was extremely valuable and we had plenty to discuss on our return to school.

Throughout the year, students' endeavours have been recognized and rewarded. In Year 12, David Marchington was awarded a Head of Foundation award for an outstanding essay on Tennyson. In Year 8, awards went to Qing Xia, who produced remarkably mature descriptive work in response to Pinter and Dickens. In Year 9 Ellie Hopewell, Charlotte Horne and Georgia Hehir produced powerful monologues based on 18th-century poetry. Awards were also made by the Head to Eleanor Toms' for her outstanding essay response to *Romeo and Juliet* and to the following Year 9 boys for their spine-chilling Vampire Guides: Michael Abrahamse, Rhys Bowen, Harrison Broughton, Dan Crosby, Al Hurd, Ben Salisbury and Alexander Welsh.

This year a number of Department Commendations for outstanding work were presented to students. From 7CJAF, Julia Knyba, Emily How, Sarah Catlin and Alana Johnson-Parsons, achieved awards for impressive effort. Ffyona Booker and Katie Hayward also achieved Department Commendations for splendid work, as did Katherine Murphy, Sophie Moss and Hannah Bailey. Joe Moores of 8CEA wrote an outstanding poetry essay. Also in Year 8, Alex Fray, Joe Loughton, Will Jones, Keeran Manoharan, Will Mattison, Alex Walley, Oliver Stevenson, Kieran Bailey, Lewis

Bell, Ed Hammonds, Callum Evans, Will Kemp and Ed Mellard achieved commendations for their novel writing projects. Furthermore, Laura Duncan's outstanding response to Shakespeare, which included a lively puppet show using the original text, merited much praise, as did Tess O'Connor's and Charlotte Horne's work. Department Commendations also went to Lauren Hayward, Verity Griffin and Molly Robinson in Year 8.

In Year 9, Zachary Howdle, Alex Galbraith, Robert Massey, Paul Roberts, Owen Thomas and Sam Wallace wrote superb analytical essays on *Romeo and Juliet*. Furthermore, Commendations also went to Sam Bryning, Lancelot Herpin and Matthew Jackson. Sam Baker was awarded a certificate for excellent overall effort and attainment in English. Poppy Kirk, Lily Brece-Tovey and Lauren Whitney received Principal's Commendations for outstanding responses to pre- and post-19th-century war poetry. Alexander Krajewski and Tom Ballantyne Rowland were also rewarded for outstanding examination performances and impressive improvement during Year 10.

Alice Carter of Year 7 achieved a Bronze Reading Award. Silver was awarded to Olivia Davies, Megan Hudny, Phoebe Pool. Sam Crosby of 7LAT achieved a Silver Reading Award and George Connolly in 7SLJ was rewarded for the consistently high quality of his reading tasks. Megan Whiteley achieved the Gold Reading Award, as well as Mia Bains, Fiona Beeston, Katie Hayward, Adele Le Moignan and Beth Whiteley.

The David Pook Poetry Shield was awarded to Alex Denny of 8KB, who wrote a thought-provoking and uplift-

ing poem on the theme of 'Belief'. Special mention must also go to Emily Foster of 7CJAF and Harry Pinches of 7SLJ who wrote memorable pieces. Sophia Hulme of 8LB, Al Hurd of 9CJM, Adam Garnett of 9PAUT and Ieuan Sanders of 9CJM are also to be congratulated for inspirational poems, including evocative and striking images. David would have enjoyed the energy and enthusiasm that both divisions showed towards the venture and it is with David in mind that we prepare for next year and our big Poetry Push.

In June, we welcomed Miss Hannah Crockart to the Department: she will be starting her teaching career at King's in the next academic year. Hannah had the opportunity to meet her new classes in the Summer Term in preparation for September. We say goodbye to Dr Gillian Banner and the Department is grateful for the expertise, passion and accomplishment that she has brought to the subject.

When singing about changes, David Bowie encouraged his audience to 'turn and face the strain'. The Government's proposals to try to change the delivery of English in schools include some controversial dictates. The English Department will continue to strive to widen horizons and open minds.

A free bird leaps
on the back of the wind
and floats downstream
till the current ends
and dips his wing
in the orange sun rays
and dares to claim the sky.

Maya Angelou

LCD

General Science

A new scheme of work was introduced in Year 8 which proved very popular with the girls and this was reflected in the excellent numbers at science clubs and other extra-curricular activities. The weekly science club saw girls creating exploding pumpkins, bonfire toffee, giant crystals and many more exciting things. The club even ventured outside to fire air-powered rockets that reached heights in excess of 200m.

The annual Year 7 trip to Catalyst Museum was a great success, with 55 girls watching interactive films and seeing a lecture on the many different ways particles can exist and change. They also took part in a number of workshops including an excellent bridge building competition, where different styles of bridge were built and tested to see which one was the strongest.

The year finished on a high with a team of four girls from Years 7 and 8 taking third place in the regional Salters Chemistry competition, beating a host of schools from the Manchester area and, more importantly, beating the Boy's Division team too. This was a very impressive result, as the event involved forensic science, practical work and detailed chemical knowledge. The team enjoyed the day at Manchester University and took home some excellent prizes.

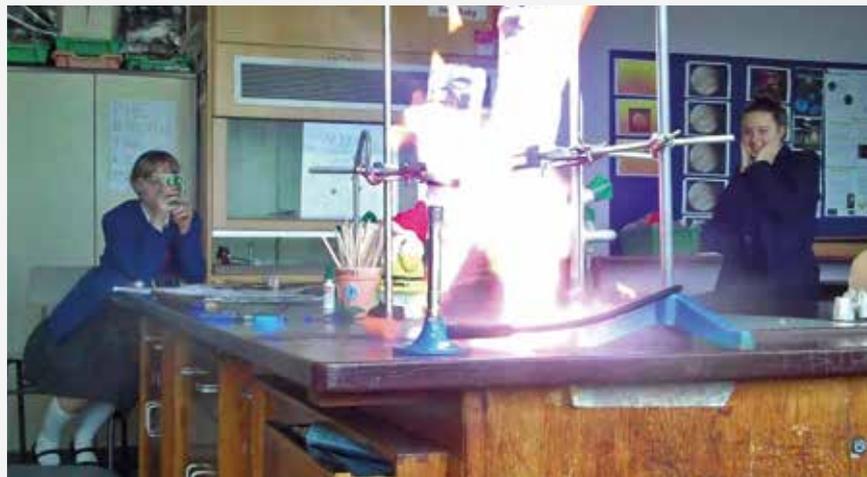
JSS

Geography

This has been another successful year for King's Geography Department. Examination results continue to be very pleasing whilst staff strive to pass on their intense passion for all matters geographical. As usual, colleagues have also striven to enrich the curriculum with interesting and varied trips, including a 'wow and awe' trip to Iceland.

We were thrilled to see George Wood in Year 12 win a place on the British Geography Olympics team. George beat hundreds of the country's leading young geographers, earning a place on the four-strong team. He will fly to Kyoto, Japan and compete against more than 30 countries.

King's Geographical Debating Team comprising Lauren Garner-Jackson, Sam Hollis and Isaac Reaney



from Year 12, triumphed over strong competition from local schools to be crowned the Cheshire and Manchester Geographical Association branch champions. They demonstrated their negotiation and presentational prowess when taking on the role of UN members, concerned with the issue of 'Global Food Security'.

In March, John Tedford joined the department as maternity cover for Mrs Talbot: his conscientious approach to teaching deserves much praise, whilst in July, Mrs Bingham left us, after 20 years teaching at King's. We thank her for her many contributions to the department and wish her well in the years ahead. Indeed, my thanks go to all my colleagues for their hard work and support in providing stimulating challenges for our pupils.

ASP

Castleton, Peak District

This year saw the keen-as-mustard Year 10 Geographers journey to Castleton to collect data for their GCSE controlled assessment. At Winnat's Pass, each pupil produced a fine, fully annotated, sketch map of the limestone gorge. Footpath erosion measurements were taken at various sites and it was noted that, whilst tourism certainly aids the local economy, there is, nonetheless, an environmental price to pay for its success.

Pupils also conducted a land use survey to determine the proportion of tourist-related buildings and facilities present as well as carrying out a tourism-related questionnaire to survey both visitors and local residents' perceptions of the impact of tourism upon the village and its

environs. In addition, cameras clicked all the while to collate photographic evidence of the positive and negative impacts of tourism. Peppering such hard work was the opportunity to sample the fine fare of the cafés and ice cream parlours and this added to the happy, purposeful atmosphere and the enjoyment of the day. Castleton is a place that will be long remembered by our geographers and, in years to come, many will return and be prompted to recall their great day out!

JDT



Iceland

This year's upper school trip saw forty students and five staff spend five action-packed days travelling around the wonders of the newest country in the world (geographically speaking): Iceland. On arrival, the group headed straight to the world-famous hot springs of the Blue Lagoon where the 40 degree waters and silicate-based mud rejuvenated tired bodies. The next days included visits to stunning waterfalls; the amazing Strokkur geyser that erupted every five minutes; the black volcanic sand beaches of Dyrholaey, complete with 7-8 metre-high destructive waves, all the way from Antarctica, and a chance to walk down the spectacular Mid Atlantic Ridge between two tectonic plates.

The luxury coach that transported the group, the excellent tour guide and the sheer enthusiasm of staff for the geographical and geological wonders around them, only added to everyone's excitement. Not content with this, the team also crawled and caved their way down lava tubes, donned crampons and ice axes to climb the hugely impressive Solheimajokull glacier, where one looked down onto Eyjafjallajokull's expansive volcanic flood plain (it's the volcano that stopped the planes back in 2010...) and finally braved a soaking, by walking behind the idyllic 60-metre Seljalandsfoss waterfall. A 300-strong pod of dolphins was witnessed off the coast on a boating trip and evening entertainment included ten pin bowling, quizzes – geographically orientated for the most part, of course - and visits to some of Reykjavik's premier eating establishments. Nights were spent in an old cinema, learning about the formation of the island and relaxing in Reykavik's open-air, hot spring. For a hardy few, there was even a very early morning, distant view of the Northern lights, illuminating the sky over one of the most sparsely populated countries on Earth. Our students behaved perfectly and were a credit to the school.

ASP

Blue Planet Aquarium

In February, Year 9 travelled to the Blue Planet Aquarium in Ellesmere Port, Wirral to supplement our learning for the topic of Oceans. Whilst there, we had a classroom session that explained to us about the problem of overfishing and the impact that it has on the Ocean's ecosystems.



We looked in detail at the effect on sharks and this certainly changed our opinions of what many see only as dangerous fish.

We also made recorded documentaries, based on different elements stationed around the site. The topics that we covered were the Amazon River, Lake Malawi in SE Africa, coastal cave systems formed by mechanical weathering and coral reefs, which contain some of the largest diversity of life in the world. These were then converted into Windows Media clips to be played back at school, showing off our TV presenting skills.

Michael Abrahamse 9PAUT

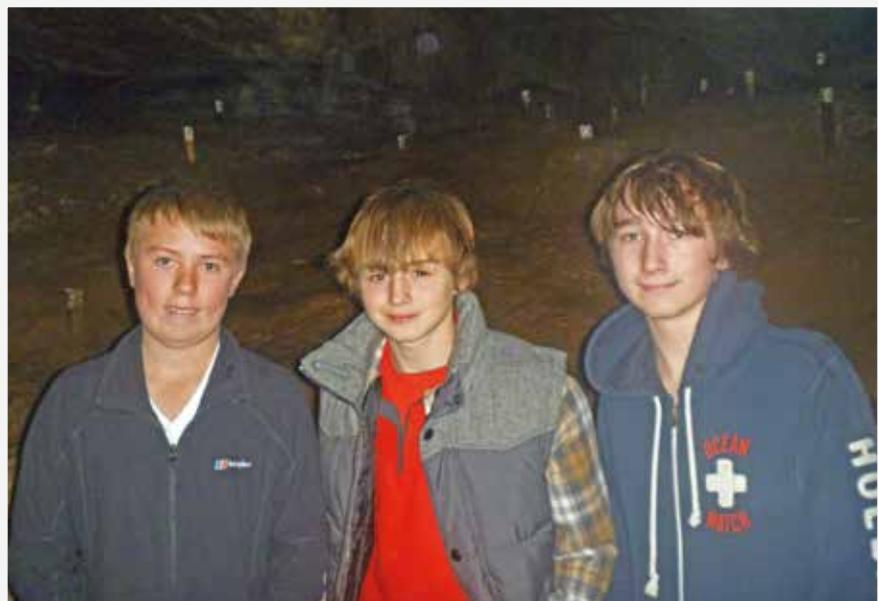
Poole's Cavern, Peak District

Year 10 Geographers increased their understanding of Carboniferous limestone scenery with a visit to Poole's Cavern in Buxton. The cavern

is one of the most impressive in the country with stalactites, stalagmites, pillars, curtains and flowstone. Pupils witnessed the considerable impact that water has on limestone: they were particularly impressed to learn how the cave system is still being explored and, in the future, may be extended further as new passages are discovered. The 'flitch of bacon' stalactite and associated 'poached egg' stalagmites encouraged pupils to avail themselves of the food in the cafeteria afterwards! One group persuaded their guide to extinguish all the lights for a short period of time so that full darkness could be experienced.

The trip continued with a visit to Grin Low Country Park to observe how limestone quarries can be used after quarrying has ceased. The excursion was a useful and worthwhile extension of pupils' GCSE studies.

CHB



Academic Departments

Afon Nant Peris Fieldwork,

Year 12 Geographers undertook fieldwork at the Field Studies Councils' Rhyd-y-Creuau centre near Betws-y-Coed, North Wales. Once again the centre more than fulfilled all our educational and accommodation requirements. The students' visit to North Wales coincided with the start of the cold weather, which, as efforts were focused on a river study, meant the need for careful preparation. On the first afternoon, the group visited Haul y Gwynt wind farm above Llanwrst, to review green energy supply and associated issues, gaining an understanding of why the wind farm had been located there. The evening session was spent in classrooms, preparing for the river survey of the upper Afon Nant Peris.

The next day, as we descended the Llanberis pass, we were just below the snow level, but the wind chill was severe; however, the group was well prepared and undertook an excellent survey, looking at how the nature of the river changed downstream. River depth, width, velocity and nature of the bed load were all recorded and the locations of each site photographed and recorded using GPS. The severity of the weather at higher levels was revealed when we watched the rescue helicopter operating above Snowdon. The survey was completed and a rather wind-blasted group returned to the centre, having developed a detailed understanding of river processes and an appreciation of the severity of winter weather in the uplands.

Over night, the snow level crept down to the lower hills, prompting an earlier departure than planned, as road conditions in North Wales and West Cheshire were beginning to get difficult. The students worked hard throughout the trip, often in genuinely unpleasant conditions, and in the morning completed statistical analysis and evaluation, before a hurried leave. Once again the level of tutoring at the centre was excellent: the students received outstanding support and gained helpful resources.

PJP

River Dane & Swettenham Brook

Year 12 Geography students took two trips to develop understanding of river features and processes. Firstly, the River Dane was investigated in a series of hops downstream from one of the sources on the moors near the



Cat and Fiddle, to the middle course near Holmes Chapel. The students looked at the environmental conditions that exist around the various stages of the river's course and how the nature of the river features and processes change downstream. At Dane Bridge, hill streams had coalesced into a 'proper' river with riffles and pools, where more typical river features could be seen. The group then moved to Congleton to consider how major engineering projects of the Industrial Revolution altered the river's processes. The final site was further out onto the Cheshire plain, where middle course features such as meanders could be examined.

The follow up field trip was to a small section of Swettenham brook, a lowland tributary of the Dane. This location is particularly useful because not only is it manageable, but each sample site has a different channel shape and pattern, with meanders, pools, riffles and braids all present. However, the main attraction, is that measuring rivers means getting into them, seeing how deep they are and whether one's waders are up to the job.

Many thanks are due to the Cheshire Conservation Trust and Mr Done for allowing access to the site.

PJP

Morfa Harlech, North Wales

Year 13 Geographers undertook fieldwork based at the Field Studies Councils' Rhyd-y-Creuau field centre

near Betws-y-Coed. Here the FSC staff provided an excellent level of care and education and a great deal was accomplished in a short, but intense, visit. The students visited Morfa Harlech sand dunes, to investigate the hypothesis that plant species vary along a transect extending from the shore line to 400m inland. Photographs of each site were taken and considerable improvements were made in plant identification. Weather conditions were cool and breezy; the Siberian winds that characterised the end of this winter had fortunately not yet started. However, the previously wet weather ensured that the wet slacks to the rear of the dunes were more like shallow lakes. Most of the students had sensibly taken the wellies option; unfortunately staff had not. PFH dealt with this problem by persuading Jonny Kenny to carry him across (unfortunately for PFH, photographic evidence was made).

Fortunately, all avoided the welsh alligators and, with data acquired, the group returned to the centre for serious number-crunching and interpretation. A meal was enjoyed at an Indian restaurant in Llanwrst that evening, when Holly J Smith and Sam Butler celebrated their 18th birthdays with curry and cake. The next morning more analysis took place and the investigation procedure was evaluated before conclusions were drawn. All in all, some very high quality Geography took place combining up to date GIS and effective hands-on fieldwork. The students were a credit to themselves and the school and worked with considerable drive and determination.

PJP



Geology

The Geology Department continues to grow in numbers of students. The eyes of many students from each new intake into the Sixth Form are opened to the delights that await them as they enter the Geology Room. Walls and window shelves are adorned with specimens of minerals, fossils and rocks whilst every drawer and cupboard is bursting with geological and palaeontological treats awaiting discovery. The recently-installed lighting shows some of the more impressive specimens off to their best, reinforcing the reputation of the Geology Department as the Aladdin's Cave of King's.

Examination results continue to impress, with the majority of students getting their best A level grades in Geology and a high percentage of the class deciding to read Geology/Earth Sciences at University.

Geologists are generally known for their willingness to deal with any kind of weather and suffer any hardship in the field to get the opportunity to pursue their science; however, not even determination such as this could prevail against the weather at Easter. The annual field course on the Isle of Arran had to be cancelled as the island was cut off by snow. With no power, roads blocked by huge snowdrifts and people being flown off the island by helicopter, any hope of reaching Arran was dashed.

The disappointment of this was countered by many of the Geology class accompanying the Geography Department trip to Iceland. At every stopping place, view point, car park, Dr Fitzgerald did not miss an opportunity to find some rocks to look at and talk about: he possibly picked up the odd specimen or two. Travelling out with a rucksack weighing only 10kg, he returned with one twice as heavy and only just within the baggage limit. When questioned, 'What have you got in here? Rocks?' he honestly replied, 'Yes.' The Department now has a few more little treasures in its collection.

A little earlier in the year, at home in the Peak District, fieldwork forming a part of the coursework for the A2 examination went without a hitch and the students produced sound pieces of work that contributed greatly to their final successful examination results.

Another splendid acquisition by

the Geology Department was the huge and rather impressive map that is now framed on the wall outside the Geology Room. As yet unpublished by the British Geological Survey, it is a preliminary version of a map of the Geology of the UK that was being reviewed during a meeting of Earth Sciences teachers earlier in the year. As a result of some geological sweet-talking to a member of the British Geological Survey staff, Dr Fitzgerald left the meeting with the map rolled up under his arm whilst teachers from other schools looked on with somewhat green faces.

JAF

History

The history department continues to prosper. Results remain impressive, a testimony to the hard work of our students and the dedication of my colleagues.

Opportunities abound for students within the department. You will get a sense of this in the reports below. The Girls' History Club continues to thrive, whilst the Boys' History Film Club is extremely popular. Many students, from both Divisions, took part once again in the annual Barnaby parade through the streets of Macclesfield. This year, King's participants dressed as victims of the Plague, fitting in with the 'death' section of the 'Metamorphosis' theme of the parade, which was held in June. Students also enjoyed entering national history competitions and one stu-

dent was commended for his essay submitted to Peterhouse College, Cambridge.

You will see below the wealth of trip opportunities offered to students. Year 7 once again enjoyed an activity day visit to Conwy Castles as part of their studies of Medieval life, whilst Year 11 students thoroughly enjoyed their half-term visit to the historic city of Munich. Members of the Sixth Form are still talking about the overnight train trip from Moscow to St Petersburg, whilst the images of Red Square at night and the Kremlin will live long in the memory.

As ever, thanks go to department members, who give unstintingly of their time to make such opportunities a reality.

MSR

History Trip to Russia

In March, 19 students embarked on their trip to Russia. After a day's travelling, we arrived at the enormous Hotel Cosmos in Moscow.

The next day, we had a sightseeing tour of the city, where we saw the Kremlin, St Basil's Cathedral, and the changing of the Guard, before enjoying lunch on Old Arbat Street. The afternoon took us to an interesting contemporary history museum that focused on communism and the Soviet Union in Russia.

Easter Sunday began with a tour of the Kremlin and Armoury, where, proudly wearing bright blue shoe covers, we saw the magnificent state carriages, clothes and royal collec-



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tion of Fabergé eggs. After lunch in an underground shopping centre, we visited the Novodevichy Cemetery, Moscow's most famous cemetery. Thousands of people of importance are buried here, including Khrushchev and Chekhov, and the unique tombstones were fascinating to see. We then had the chance to go on the Metro and see some of the magnificent underground stations, which were created as Soviet propaganda by Stalin. After going to the circus in the evening, we went for dinner at the Hard Rock Café, where we took some time to look at the impressive memorabilia on the walls, followed by a visit to Red Square. This wonderful, yet exhausting day, ended with us boarding the train to St Petersburg, with many comments being made on the snug size of our cabins.

Following a great breakfast in the city the next day, we embarked on a sightseeing tour of the city created by Peter the Great. This included seeing the frozen River Neva; a treat for Mr Robinson when we visited the Tsar's log cabin, and a tour of the Peter and Paul Fortress and Prisons, where we saw Peter the Great's tomb. After a tiring morning, we went to the enormous Hotel Pribaltiyskaya to check-in.

That evening, the group went to the Nikolaevsky Palace for a folklore show, with caviar canapés in the interval. The show included close har-

mony singers, Cossack dancing and a bit of audience participation; two members of our group were chosen to join in with the dancing on stage, much to the delight of the rest of us. The show was followed by a lovely dinner in the ballroom of the palace, which included the Russian speciality, borscht.

Day 5 began with a visit to the Winter Palace and the Hermitage, where we saw several Rembrandts, a few da Vincis and a Michelangelo, among many other great works. After a group photo with Peter the Great himself, we went on a tour of the Yusupov Palace. This fascinating day ended with an opera at the Mariinsky Theatre. *Semyon Kotko*, a Soviet opera that was both captivating and perhaps confusing at times, lasted 3½ hours with two intervals, so it definitely tested our endurance and concentration levels. It was, however, a wonderful experience and memorable occasion.

Our last day took us to the magnificent Catherine's Palace, which was certainly not short of rooms or gold. Walking round the vast palace meant that a stop at a pancake shop was needed, and some last-minute souvenir shopping was done too. We then travelled to a new shopping centre near the airport for lunch, where some attempted ice-skating at the indoor rink, with varying levels of success. Following a visit to the WWII

memorial, we began our journey home.

The trip was an amazing experience from beginning to end, with memories we'll never forget and photos we'll never stop looking at, and everyone who went to Russia would recommend the trip to anyone!

Lauren Garner-Jackson 12SJM

Barnaby Parade

We arrived at the Girls' Division after lunch to prepare our props for the Barnaby Parade. We were required to make dead bodies to look like victims of the plague. First we ripped up some newspaper and stuffed it into two bin bags. After that we tied rope around them, connecting them and sellotaped a balloon to the end of them so it looked like a head (to me it looked like 'Slender Man'). Lastly, we covered it up with a white sheet. It looked pretty good and I was pleased. We were given a verse to learn from the Plague Song from the *Horrible Histories*. This was to be our chant when we were going around the town on Saturday during the parade.

On Saturday, we met at the back of the Town Hall. We were all exchanging compliments on each other's costume: Joe was a peasant; George was a doctor with a great mask; Alex was also a doctor; Matt, Josh and I were all peasants. My job was to push the cart with three dead bodies around the



parade. As we exited, I saw numerous cameras pointing at us and we even had to stop in order to have our picture taken! It was great fun and I was so happy that I took part. It is definitely something I shall treasure all my life.

Joe Gardner 7GJS

Munich

In October, forty GCSE History students, under the supervision of Dr Craig, Mrs Olsen, Mr Robinson and Dr Hyde, embarked on a study trip to Munich, to learn more about the Nazis' rise to power.

Once in Munich, our guide, Dave, met us for a short tour of the city. Our first stop was the site of the Oktoberfest, a 17-day-long beer festival. The festival had ended a few days before we arrived, but most of the 'tents' were still there, including the famous Oktoberfest sign. We then travelled to a Romanesque building called 'The Hall of Fame', which features the busts of many famous Bavarians, including that of Claus Graf Schenk von Stauffenberg, a member of the 1944 July Bomb Plot. A Bavaria monument was also there, a 19-metre-high bronze woman dressed in a toga with a lion at her side; it was very impressive, especially as it was lit up against the night sky.

The next morning, everyone was looking forward to the Nuremberg excursion. Our first stop was the Museum of Fascination and Terror, which went into great depth about the Nazi regime. The actual museum was the abandoned Kongresshalle, which Hitler intended to use for speeches, but was never completed. We then visited the Zeppelin Field, which Hitler used for party rallies. The last stop was the Nuremberg court, where Nazis were tried for their crimes of war and against humanity. There was also an exhibition going into the details of the trials; who organised them, what the sentences were and how long the trials lasted. What surprised me the most was that the trials lasted approximately 12 months.

On Tuesday, we had a tour of the Olympic stadium in Munich. This was relevant to our GCSE-controlled assessment on the Arab-Israeli conflict. After a brief visit to BMW World, we embarked on a walking tour of Munich along the trail of the Munich putsch, which was a political uprising led by Hitler, to overthrow the government of Bavaria.

On Wednesday, our last day in Munich, we visited the concentration camp at Dachau. This was an experience which many students found harrowing, including myself.

After leaving the concentration camp, we embarked on another walking tour of Munich, however this time it was about the White Rose organisation. The White Rose, or Weisse Rose, was a group of students and teachers at Munich University who resisted the Nazis and made anti-Nazi leaflets that encouraged others to resist the Nazis too. The main members of the group were siblings, Hans and Sophie Scholl.

We returned home that evening tired, but having had a wonderful time in Munich.

Mioni Armstrong 11 RAA

ICT

The department continued its excellent ECDL pass rate, with a further 200 pupils passing the qualification since September 2012. A very high number of pupils also scored 100% in modules. The A level computing students competed in the British Informatics Olympiad, in which Tom



Cann scored the top school mark. Both AS and A2 computing sets also competed in the National Cipher Challenge for the third time. Once again, both teams did very well and only lost points in the very last round.

Outside lesson time, a number of students developed their own software for a variety of different purposes, such as productivity tools, cipher solvers, strategy games and Apps. Edward Nathan, Tom Cann, Elliot Sime and Keir Birchall produced particularly impressive software. The department annually awards two computing prizes and this year they were awarded to Elliot Sime and Keir Birchall.

Former pupil, James McIlveen continues to write sophisticated apps whilst at university: he recently developed an iPhone/iPad app called *Laser Chambers* that has already had over 100,000 downloads. It is available for purchase on the iTunes store.

A special mention should be given to Elliot Sime, who left King's this summer. Elliot will be at Lancaster University to read computer science from September 2013. His computing and ICT ability and achievements deserve further expansion. In Year 7, Elliot was at that time the youngest student in the UK to pass his ECDL qualification. He scored over 90% in every module too. He then went on to complete his ECDL extra qualification in Year 8, and in Year 9 started work on AS computing material. In KS4 he was producing advanced level software and sitting in with A level classes. He entered the national programming competitions giving the Sixth Form students a surprise. Outside the classroom, he always helped other students and staff with any IT-related problems. His background knowledge is vast and this developed as he moved into Sixth Form. He leaves behind a legacy in a number of departments. Elliot has a great future ahead of him and I look forward to seeing software he will develop in the future.

COD

Mathematics

In addition to the Mathematics GCSE, for which all in Year 11 are entered, top sets also sit the very demanding Further Mathematics Certificate, a qualification which is halfway to an AS. Six of those students secured A⁺, which denotes a performance

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that is so strong that A* does not do it justice. Three girls and three boys achieved this high honour: Rheanne Beresford, Tom Eastgate, Jamie Edgerton, Laura Embrey, Jenny Shering and Alistair Thomson. Laura Embrey excelled even further, scoring 100% in this examination, and received a personal letter of congratulations from the chief of examiners at the AQA Examinations Board.

The Triple Mind Challenge (Christmas Kakuro, Spring Sudoku, Summer Killer) was extended to the Girls' Division this year, where an exciting race led to Capesthorpe taking the honours, helped by a sensational first round where they pipped other houses by almost 100 points, giving them an almost unassailable lead. At the Boys' Division, the contest was more closely fought, with Tatton just beating Capesthorpe by 3 points.

The Maths Website (kingsmaths.co.uk) continues to be popular with pupils, having now accumulated more than 33,000 hits. Mr Laurence's legendary one-page solutions to the OCR modules, continue to be extremely popular with Sixth Form pupils, as do the Beano and other revision-related resources for Years 7 - 11.

The department continues to have excellent representation and results in the UK Mathematics Trust Competitions. Congratulations in particular to Laura Embrey, Year 11 (she got all 24 questions attempted correct!) and Matthew Smith, Year 10 who qualified for the Olympiad - usually the

top 1000 or so in the country. We also had three Kangaroo qualifiers: Dmitri Whitmore, James Shering and Matt Harden (all Year 10).

A team of two Year 8 girls, Molly Bessell and Hannah Wilcock, and two Year 9 boys, David Jessop and Alex Welsh, went to compete at a UKMT Team Challenge (first round) held at Poynton High School in March. An unusually large number - 17 in total - of teams from schools in the North West took part on the day. Many had competed several times before, so we had tough competition. The team had to compete in activities such as a timed cross number challenge and a relay question round. We fought a great battle and came fourth overall, which was very pleasing.

Taster Day debut for Maths

Taster Day saw the introduction of a Mathematics element. With the weather on our side, it was decided to be bold and attempt to construct a tetrahedron capable of enclosing all of the 20 aspiring mathematicians. The pupils looked into the properties of a tetrahedron and discussed the mathematical sequences that would determine the requirements for the giant version. With the calculations complete, each of four groups produced sixteen mini tetrahedrons to produce a medium tetrahedron, which then created the final structure. Despite a few minor structural hiccups, which required a few last minute repairs, both of the groups

succeeded in producing a pyramid capable of enclosing each and every one of them.

PJC

Modern Languages

This has certainly been an eventful year for the Modern Languages Faculty. On top of teaching French, German, Spanish and Japanese and maintaining our extensive trips programme, we have broadened our provision for extra-curricular interest in languages and linguistics, and the response to this has been very pleasing. We were sad to lose Christine Morton and Christophe Fico this year; both brought an enormous amount to King's, over a significant period of time. Specifically, Christine had, since the introduction of the subject in 2003, built a Spanish Department, and Christophe worked hard to reinforce a sense of a Modern Languages Faculty at the Girls' Division. Both were creative and inspiring language teachers and they will be missed. In September 2012, we welcomed Toby Seth, Deputy Head (Development), to the Faculty, and in the course of the year we also welcomed Maria Gutierrez-Fernandez and Janine Turner in their roles teaching Spanish and French. We welcomed our Language Assistants, Marion Dupont, from the Lille area of France, Kathrin Epp from Bavaria, and Marta Yerpes Cordoba from Madrid. We also congratulated Mr and Mrs Tsang and Mr and Mrs Houghton on the birth of their babies.

We were delighted to broaden our enrichment provision for those particularly interested in language. For the first time, pupils from the school entered the national UK Linguistics Olympiad, with students from Years 8 to 13 tackling the ferociously difficult questions. All seemed to find the challenges interesting. Our teams did well in this competition, particularly the Sixth Form entrants, with Harry Bradbury managing to achieve a Gold Award for his entry.

In March there was another first for the school: a half-day symposium for those in Year 10 and upwards with an interest in language study. A large audience enjoyed talks from a range of exciting speakers, all active professionally within the realms of modern languages. The students enjoyed an insight into the careers to which their language study could give access.



In the French Department, colleagues put together the first Year 9 course based on Michel Thomas's principles of teaching. We are pleased with the results, which give a solid foundation and a sense of confidence to our pupils, ready for their GCSE study.

In February, Dr Isabelle Vander-schelden gave a stimulating and useful half-day workshop on the cinema of Jean-Pierre Jeunet. Years 10 and 11 attended a GCSE one-day conference in Manchester and many commented afterwards on the usefulness of the day. Trips continue to be a strength of the department; in October, Mr Fico took the annual trip to Paris, which was hugely enjoyable and successful for our Year 10 and 11 students. They struck a pleasing balance between learning the language, experiencing the culture, and enjoying all the other more obvious attractions which Paris offers. At Easter, Mme Schué took a group of Year 12 and 13 students to Montpellier for a period of work experience, which proved enormously beneficial to their spoken French and their confidence. The students engaged in a wide variety of placements, and were obliged to communicate entirely in French, before returning home to French host families. In July, sixty Year 7 pupils enjoyed a wonderful few days of activity holiday at the Château de la Baudonnière in Normandy, where they participated in a huge range of activities, using French at all times.

In the German Department, we were pleased to re-launch the Rhine-land trip, opening it up to more year groups than previously, and giving the opportunity to our students to increase their cultural understanding of the German way of life. We were visited by colleagues from the Salvatorkolleg in Bad Wurzach in June, with a view to exploring a possible new link with the school involving an exchange. Back in Macclesfield, pupils from Years 9 – 13 enjoyed the play *Nichts zum Anziehen*, performed by the German touring theatre company, Onatti, at Fence Avenue. This was followed by language workshops, and pupils commented on how useful the afternoon had been. In February, a group of Sixth Form students visited Manchester Metropolitan University for a day of lectures and workshops on A level topics. A group of Sixth Formers also attended Brecht's play *Mutter Courage* at the Lowry, participating in the accompanying workshops. Janine Turner delivered two workshops in preparation for the Year 13 cultural topic – one being an introduction to film in the GDR era, and the other an introduction to the film set in that era, *Barbara*.

One Year 9 boy had his work displayed in Oxford for their Bonn Week celebrations, and pupils also entered the Ernst Juenger translation competition and the Goethe Institute Digital Days' competition.

Finally, mention must be made of Projekt Austauschpaket, organised by

our German Assistant, Kathrin Epp. This was a wonderful project promoting bi-cultural exchange and partnership between King's and the Mittelschule Katzwang in Nuremberg. Pupils prepared boxes of typically English Christmas and Easter goodies to send to our partner school in Germany, and the German pupils prepared boxes of German fare to send to our pupils. Letters of introduction were also written and enclosed with these parcels.

In the Spanish Department, we were most grateful to Helen Connaughton for taking over the role of Head of Department. One highlight this year, was the Year 13 visit to MMU in February for their Spanish Sixth Form day. Alex Langton and Will Machin particularly enjoyed the 'fun with interpreting' lecture, which put everyone on the spot, making it nerve-wracking for students and teachers alike! A second, new initiative was the cultural topic morning workshop in March, given by the contemporary Spanish film specialist, Ms Carmen Herrero from MMU on the films of Pedro Almodóvar.

Finally, many students were happy to take their interest in Spanish or Hispanic language and culture into their own spare time, and some Sixth Form students attended the VIVA Spanish film festival in March at the Cornerhouse, where they watched several Spanish and Latin-American films.

Japanese continued to attract a



Starry Night on the Rhone

Inspired by Starry Night on the Rhone by Vincent Van Gogh

Starlight, softly surging downwards
Towards the faded shore
Night smeared by an oily cloth
Torchlight reflected across
The water like Charon's ferry

In silence walks a pair
Their wrinkles lit by fiery beams
Stars ceilidh dance in their eyes
Their hands a mosaic of life
But their bodies are frail
As brittle as life itself

Behind the river's curtain
Ships glide through, enveloped in fog
Indefatigable
Mighty steeled workhorses
Pulling their heavy load
On a starry night on the Rhone.

Ieuan Sanders 9CJM

Academic Departments

small but committed core of Sixth Form students, and we were pleased with the results achieved, which is testament to the hard work of our Japanese teacher, Atsuko Koido.

Our aim is to continue to offer an engaging plethora of increasing language-learning opportunities for our students.

IED

Château de la Baudonnière

We have taken groups to the wonderful Château de la Baudonnière for over ten years now, and are hugely impressed by the range of activities and the quality of the educational experience. All the activities are run by young, talented French staff, who speak only French to our students. By the end of the holiday, our pupils have learned some new vocabulary, whilst their confidence in using the language is noticeably strengthened. Above all, they return full of stories about the fun they have had.

Every opportunity is taken to reinforce students' use and understanding of French. For example, each meal was preceded by an interactive presentation of the food for that meal. As the week progressed, it was great to see pupils using French naturally and without hesitation.

We enjoyed orienteering in the extensive and beautiful grounds, canoeing, climbing and archery, fencing and the notorious assault course, and enjoyed glorious sunshine for most of our visit. Evening activities were varied and excellent. On one night we had a very competitive sports tournament, involving three different groups participating in three different sports, whilst bemused sheep and llamas looked on. A few days into the trip, came the famous (or infamous), French evening. This began with a fancy-dress competition, with some very impressive entries. Finally, we had an evening of *It's a Knockout*, with relays involving shaving-form and the welly-chucking competition.

On the final morning, we stopped at the impressive market in Caen, where the children excitedly set about buying French ingredients for their picnic, to be eaten on board the ferry. Again, there were some wonderfully original ideas, and many children showed a real curiosity about French products and an interest in buying typical food. They were, of course, rewarded for their curiosity by a delicious lunch.

Once again, the children benefitted hugely from the commitment, patience, humour and dedication shown by the dream-team of staff which accompanied them and ensured they had a wonderful experience.

IED

GDR Film *Barbara*

In June, independent languages consultant Mrs Janine Turner, who is currently teaching Spanish and French at King's, led an exciting event for AS Level German students. Jan delivered two workshops, the first an introduction to film in the GDR, and the second an introduction to the contemporary German film *Barbara*, which the students also watched. Jan used clips to look back at the history of the German film industry, then Jan students with an introduction to the film and set it in its context.

Jan has taught German for many years and is a very keen advocate of the use of film in language teaching. With the backing of the Goethe-Institut, Manchester, she has delivered her ideas in many schools in Cheshire and Yorkshire. She is a regular speaker for the Association of Language Learning.

MSTH

Onatti Workshop

Pupils from all three Senior Divisions encountered some much-appreciated entertainment in the form of an enriching play, presented by the foreign language theatre company, Onatti (below). Their portrayal of two young and excited teenagers getting

ready to go out proved to be helpful in developing our German conversational skills, as well as providing much humour. Many in the audience were surprised to discover that, despite doubts, the language was understandable and the play could be followed with ease and enjoyment. The group activities after the play, allowed newly-acquired knowledge and enthusiasm to be put into practice.

MSTH

Music

We reached the end of another year in fine style. Thanks and congratulations go to Liz Rotherham, Oboe and Recorder teacher, who retired after 15 years of valuable inspiration and enthusiasm. Congratulations and all best wishes went to Neil Fulton who married in July: we wish him and Fiona great happiness in their life together. We also welcomed Beatrice Hubble as our new Oboe and Recorder teacher and wish her many happy years at King's.

We were very proud to be described in the Good Schools Guide as 'huge and impressive': King's Music continued to provide challenge and opportunity in equal measure to a great number of superb pupils, both inside and outside the classroom, and their response is quite overwhelming. Long may this continue to be so.

King's musicians have been involved in well over 30 musical events during the year, mostly within school, but with a significant proportion





It is perhaps invidious to pick out a few items for special mention, but Jamie Edgerton deserves praise and thanks for directing the Saxophone Ensemble on both occasions. The Brass Group comprising Year 7 boys exhibits great potential and a wonderful sense of camaraderie and fun. It goes without saying that the value of attending regular rehearsals and then playing in concerts is a vital part of life for those fortunate enough to have the opportunity.

October 2012 saw two excellent concerts given by guests of King's.

The internationally renowned Italian jazz pianist, Enrico Pieranunzi, headlined a day of jazz in which the King's Big Band and other local performers played all afternoon and evening. This was a marathon effort but quite stunning in its range and intensity. Steve Plews organised the event with vision and enthusiasm.

Daniel Moulton, Concert Organist Extraordinaire, also performed for us. He is a London-based organist, with family connections in Macclesfield; indeed his two young nephews attend King's Juniors. He gave a programme of phenomenal technical and musical dexterity praising our Makin Organ as one of the best he has played.

The Year 8 Boys' Evening received a makeover this year. It is always a great success but by including Drama, and superb examples of Art and D&T work, something quite remarkable was achieved. The boys were given the opportunity to perform in public in musical and dramatic contexts, fighting nerves, showing courage and discipline and ultimately, really enjoying themselves doing something they may never do again. Great thanks must go to all the boys and to the

within the wider community.

Music at Mike's, our Friday lunch-time series at St Michael's Church, goes from strength to strength. Boys and girls from every year group in the Senior Divisions have entertained, enthralled and profoundly moved increasingly large and ever more appreciative audiences. We have enjoyed soloists, String Orchestra, Jazz Band and Big Band, BFC, Boy's Choir and many other contributions. A considerable sum of money has been raised for East Cheshire Hospice from the retiring collections. We are very grateful to St Michael's and, latterly, the URC for welcoming us, and giving our pupils a great platform. All of the concerts are a highlight and unfair as it may seem to single one out, I must mention the final concert of the season. Almost all the Year 7 boys sang in this, with valuable contributions from boys in Years 9, 10 and 12. There was a real feeling of corporate cohesion and identity, coupled with a love of performance which will linger in the minds of all those involved for a long time to come. If you did not have the chance to attend one of these concerts, please take the earliest opportunity to do so next year.

The Instrumental Concerts, in No-

vember and May, respectively showcased our ensembles and staff who devote so much time to the pupils involved. Wonderful performances from Jazz Band, Jazz Ensemble, Big Band, Brass Group, Flute Groups, Clarinet Ensemble, Saxophone Ensemble, Wind Band, Concert Band, Foundation Orchestra and String Orchestra were enthusiastically received on both occasions. It goes without saying that the standard of performance continues to develop, year on year.



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'Creative Staff' who made it happen.

An Evening of Fine Music, masterminded by Mrs Beesley, was an innovation and an immense success, shining a light in the darkening days of November. This really was a soirée with an intimate atmosphere, soft lighting, drinks, nibbles and stunning music. Performances were given by a few of our visiting instrumental staff and four of our most talented student players, to a large and very appreciative audience. If this was not success enough, the evening also raised £1000 for charity.

With Christmas fast approaching, the Foundation Choir set out for Chester Cathedral for our biennial Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. This is always an utter treat for all concerned and a vital part of King's pupils' continuing musical development. Singing brings a great joy and discipline but never more so than in a cathedral where we become part of a tradition reaching back millennia. This was a truly uplifting and memorable occasion for choir, soloists (Clare MacKinnon, Will Poyser and Anna Callow), conductor and self-indulgent organist! It is fair to say that the congregation also rose to the challenge and sang with great gusto. The service was repeated in Macclesfield and twice for the school. This was splendid worship in which all involved with King's should take immense pride.

Much time is spent at weekends either in school or away, enriching the lives of our young musicians. The Wind Band and Jazz Band enjoyed a fabulous weekend at Ilam Hall Youth Hostel. The string players have enjoyed 'Pizzicato and Pizza' and a weekend of intense rehearsals at Trigonos (pictured right). The difference that these weekends make to all of our players, musically and socially, is immeasurable. We have also had the pleasure of taking large groups to the Lowry and to the Opera House in Manchester to see Mozart's *Don Giovanni* and the immortal G&S *Pirates of Penzance*.

Another great favourite is the BFC Tour to Cartmel. Harry Lyons, Year 7 Music Scholar, has contributed the following edited highlights:

'It's a good job Blackpool Pleasure Beach didn't know what was about to hit it as the groups spread out in all directions, in search of the shortest queue. It may as well have been raining, because we all got drenched

on Valhalla. The bus then took us to Windermere Youth Hostel. After tea we had a mini rehearsal, and then it was bed time.

We arrived in the beautiful village of Cartmel after lunch on Sunday. The Priory was lovely to sing in and we even had an audience for our rehearsal. We sang and played our hearts out and we received huge applause. We were raising funds for the Priory and Crisis, which is Mrs Pyatt's favourite charity. We had a full house so I hope we raised lots of money for homeless people, especially as we sang *The Streets of London*. We all had

a brilliant time and we'd like to thank Mrs Beesley, Mrs Pyatt, Mrs Barratt and Miss Smith for taking us on such a memorable tour.' (£650 was raised.)

Any one of the pupils on the tour would have written in similar vein; such events are of immense value and provide memories that will linger for a lifetime.

As the summer term drew to a close, King's Swings, an evening of Jazz, was performed by the Jazz Band and Big Bands directed by Gareth Brown and Kevin Dearden. A great night was enjoyed by all and another £450 was raised for East Cheshire



Hospice. The Big Band also entertained a massive crowd in the Market Place at the Barnaby Festival Feast in late June. This was a splendid event, and simple, very effective, advertising for the school, again proving the worth of our enriching extra-curricular activities.

The Music Competition Soirée took place in late June and was the culmination of a number of weeks gentle playing by boys and girls in Years 7 to 9. It gave a wonderful indication of the talent and potential available across the school and was a very enjoyable concert.

The Choir Dinner at Adlington Hall is always a most enjoyable affair, not least because of the wealth of originality on display at the 'Talent Show', but because it truly marks the end of the musical year, but – it wasn't quite over.

The Foundation Choir and the BFC really had to sing for their supper as *King's Sings* on July 2nd was a truly magnificent concert; without doubt, it was the highlight of the year and an event which few of our competitors could begin to match.

The concert was held in the opulent setting of St Alban's Church, at the kind invitation of Fr Peter. The music certainly matched the magnificent Pugin architecture and was beautifully enhanced by the soaring acoustic.

The BFC opened proceedings with

a fabulous group of songs further enlivened by soloists Alex Clarke (Flute), Eleanor Fielding (Voice) and Alex Voysey (Electric Guitar). The choral sound was spellbinding, with accompaniment provided from the piano by Mrs Pyatt.

After a satisfyingly slick turn around at the interval, the Foundation Choir, soloists, and orchestra of staff, pupils and friends took the stage under the baton of Mrs Beesley for a truly memorable performance of the *Maria Theresa Mass* by Haydn. This underperformed masterpiece, written in the same year as Mozart's *Requiem*, demonstrates intensity, depth, beauty and humour in equal measure. Our home-grown soloists were remarkable in their magnificence; great maturity of voice and personality was shown by Clare MacKinnon, Mary Thorp, Eleanor McKenna, Henry Strutt and Henry Reavey. These parts are usually sung by paid professionals – who needs them when you have such talent to draw upon? The orchestra played with flair, precision and musicality; tribute must be paid to our own Laura Embrey, who led with confidence far beyond her years. Finally, the choir; what a choir! Pupils from Years 8 to 13, with a few additional staff, tackled this work with enthusiasm and a level of musicianship more than equal to the task. There are passages of great technical difficulty, great intensity and close ensemble, all of which were

taken in the collective stride. Mrs Beesley conducted the entire concert with style and aplomb, and the audience showed their appreciation with a standing ovation at the conclusion of the piece. What a concert, what memories, and another £2700 raised, this time, for Syrian refugees.

I am very proud to have been able to take part in much of what is described above. Our immense thanks go to all the music staff for all their dedication, hard work and humour, and to all other colleagues who have been involved in a year of challenges and triumphs.

SJM.

Junior Music

The Juniors began their year with a Year 4 production, the musical pantomime, *Ali Baba*. Sterling performances were provided by Georgina Devon as Ali Baba; Isabel Watkins as Mrs Baba; Faye Fitzmaurice as their son, Hamid; Georgia Bailey as Sandy the slave girl; Milan Turnbull as Cassim; Emma Graham as Chuckle; Derrin Scott as Tickle and Jeremy Herpin as Mustapha. Year 4 pupils shone as members of the gang and as pizza delivery boys and girls. Each class performed a dance and also a percussion accompaniment.

Our Christmas Concert showcased our Junior ensembles, presenting the results of their hard work during the Autumn Term. Items played included



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'Walking in the Air' performed by Woodwind Wonders; an icy 'Winter Song' played by the Guitar Ensemble; a jazzy version of 'Jingle Bells' from Star Strings and a rousing 'Regal Fanfare' from Team Brass. Years 3 and 4 Choir sang the charming 'Santa's Little Bell' and Years 5 and 6 Choir delighted those members of the audience who were children of the 70s by singing, 'The Twelve Groovy Days of Christmas' which mentioned many things fashionable during those years. Solos were expertly performed by Aidan Carman, Aisling Day, Bryn Barker, Georgina Bergman, Shanice Donatien and Max Hine.

6SR visited Harry Lawson Court and gave a special concert to the residents. Zoe Thomas, Theodora Ghiorghiu, Lottie Thomas, Ellie Watkins, Emily Higginbottom, Olivia Holder and members of the choir performed items, and the class recited the poem, 'Twas the night before Christmas'. Hilarious Christmas jokes were told by Jamie Shuttleworth and Thomas Davies whilst carols and Christmas songs were sung by everyone. The children spread the Christmas spirit to the residents of the court with their entertaining concert.

Finally, the Junior Christmas Church Service at St Paul's Church completed our festive celebrations. Each year group sang a song which reflected part of the Christmas story; Year 3 sang 'Mary's Song'; Year 4, 'On the Road to Bethlehem'; Year 5 sang 'Let the Bells Ring' and Year 6, 'Unto us a Son is Born'. The Years 3 and 4 choir performed, 'Tonight a New Boy Born' and the Years 5 and 6 choir sang, 'Sing out with Praise', with a trumpet part expertly played by

Max Hine. Members of 6JEB delivered the Christmas readings and 6SR performed a sketch, *The Christmas Party*, which showed how Christmas has changed through the years. Three traditional carols were sung as part of the service; the first verse of 'Once in Royal David's City' was beautifully sung as a solo by Saffron Milner and the Years 5 and 6 choir delighted us with a high descant during the final verse of 'O Come all Ye Faithful'.

That evening, a choir of Year 5 and 6 pupils returned to St Paul's to perform in a charity concert, attended by Councillor Alift Harewood, the Mayor of Macclesfield. The concert also featured the Lions Youth Brass Band from Stockport. Our pupils impressed the audience with their beautiful and confident singing and they were splendid ambassadors of our school. A substantial amount of money was raised by the concert which goes towards the upkeep of this beautiful church. As we enjoy holding our services at St Paul's twice a year, it is good to be able to offer something back in return.

In March, Year 6 performed the musical, *Honk!* It retells the well-known story by Hans Christian Anderson of the Ugly Duckling. This special duckling, played by Sam Jones, hatches in the nest of Ida and Drake, a pair of mallards played by Saffron Milner and Max Hine. The other ducklings are less than happy with their new brother as he doesn't resemble the rest of the brood. This drives him into an unlikely friendship with a Cat, played by Francesca Sawyer, who is hoping for a tasty meal and who leads him away from his adopted mother. Fortunately, the Cat's plans are constantly thwarted and Ida, after

a long search is reunited with her son. Year 6 children appeared as grebes, quails, speckled hens, wild geese and frogs and they became very adept at quick costume changes. There was a lot of dancing in the show including a military-style routine for 'Wild Goose Chase' and synchronised high kicks in the song 'Warts and All', which was a real show-stopper. The success of the show was due to an enormous team effort by staff, parents and, most importantly, the children, who gave stunning performances of quality far beyond their years.

Years 3 and 4 led our Easter celebrations by performing *Easter* by Alison Carver. The songs told the story of Holy Week and were interspersed with passages from the Bible read confidently and clearly by Year 4 pupils. The children sang the seven songs with enthusiasm and conveyed the joy of the Easter message in their performance. The Years 3 and 4 Choir also contributed to the service by singing 'Praise the Risen Lord'.

Junior musicians had a successful time when they competed at the Alderley Edge Music Festival achieving 3rd, 2nd and 1st place certificates. The ten members of Stringstars competed in the Small Ensemble Class and played a varied (and technically demanding) programme of 'Cool Calypso', 'Oh Danny Boy' and 'Sea Shanty Medley'. The adjudicator was impressed with their rhythmic and dynamic ability and commented on their use of pizzicato and tremolando. They were pleased to receive a 3rd place certificate in a strongly contested class.

The fifteen members of Woodwind Wonders, featuring children from Years 3 - 6 who play flutes, recorders,



clarinets, percussion and bassoon, performed in the Large Ensemble class. Their pieces were 'Galloping Home', 'Barcarolle' and 'Popcorn Polka'. Their ensemble playing was given a favourable comment and also their contrasting moods between the pieces. This ensemble achieved 2nd place.

Forty boys and girls from Year 6 sang as a choir in the Year 6 and under choral class. Their programme was comprised of 'Happy Talk', an exuberant number from the musical *South Pacific* and the more relaxed song, 'The glory of Love'. The adjudicator commented on their accurate harmony singing, their clear diction, good support and breath control and their sense of enjoyment, which was also communicated to the audience. Their performance was rewarded with a first place certificate and a silver cup.

The Junior Music Festival, held over 4 days, produced 10 hours of confident and well-prepared instrumental and vocal playing by our young musicians, which is a testament to the dedication shown by our pupils towards their studies. It was particularly pleasing that the Year 3s were keen to enter and we were treated to performances in every available class, including Ensemble. Mr Mercer, Mrs Barratt, Mrs Beesley and Mrs Pyatt adjudicated and encouraged the children with their hints and tips on performance technique.

The Junior Summer Concert was a wonderful and joyful way to end the year. The hall was filled with pupils supported by an admiring audience of family and friends. Items performed included Woodwind Wonders playing the theme tune to *Doctor Who*; Stringstars played a hauntingly beautiful arrangement of 'Londonderry Air'; Team Brass gave a stirring rendition of 'Michael Row', Guitar Ensemble played a moody piece, vaguely reminiscent of *James Bond* called '006'; Dance Group performed an upbeat response to the song 'Candy' and Super Samba, making their debut in this concert, played lively Carnival rhythms in 'Samba Batucada'. The three choirs that sang, Lower Junior, Upper Junior and Competition Choir, gave excellent performances, singing harmonies with accuracy and confidence. The Year 6 class winners performed their winning items, playing to an exceptionally high standard. Such fine music comes through the

efforts of Music Staff, parents who encourage their children and our young musicians who share their musical talent with us throughout the year.

AJL

Physics

Physics Club

A dedicated and enthusiastic group of Years 7, 8 and 10 boys attended Physics Club each Tuesday lunch time. They participated in a variety of innovative projects sourced by our inspirational technician, Dr Embrey. For example, they built and rode homemade hovercrafts, made from wood and plastic and powered by the kinetic energy in the fan of a leaf blower. The myth-busting videos and homemade speakers proved to be favourites as did the 'water rockets' which were fired up to heights of over 20 metres.

CEA



Christmas Physics Lecture

Sixth Form students heard an enlightening lecture on dark matter at Liverpool University. The lecture covered very recent research on supernovas and evidential support for a new theory of the origin of dark matter.

SJH

Jodrell Bank

Year 10 students attended lectures at Jodrell Bank on the electromagnetic spectrum, had a visit to the planetarium and explored the world-famous Lovell radio telescope.

SJH

Nuffield Bursary Scheme

Having gained a place on the Nuffield Bursary Scheme and spent four weeks at Liverpool University in August 2012, Keir Birchall was invited to attend 'The Big Bang' UK Young Scientists and Engineers Fair at The ExCel in London in March 2013.

CPH

Headstart and Smallpeice Trust

This summer I was lucky enough to gain places on Headstart and Smallpeice Trust Engineering courses. The first, Headstart, was at Bristol University and allowed me to experience living in university accommodation and a broad spectrum of engineering disciplines. This provided a useful insight to some elements of Engineering I had not previously considered, such as Aeronautical Engineering. The main focus of the week, however, was using a microcontroller: programming it to use three light sensors to follow a line and then park in a garage. This was very challenging: it was a steep learning curve to use the programming effectively.

I then attended a Smallpeice Trust course at Birmingham University. This course was on Railway Engineering and I found it more intriguing than I'd expected. I learned about many interesting aspects, such as how the safety functions work and the reasoning behind their design. My group of five was set the task of building a one-carriage train that was to be rolled down a track into a wall, at 2.5ms⁻¹, with the mounted accelerometer experiencing no more than 10g. The group I was in won and our solution was also the cheapest by a large margin. Jon Bentley from the 'Gadget Show' presented the awards.

Both courses helped me to decide that Mechanical Engineering would be my preferred discipline. I would recommend them to anyone interested in Engineering.

Jack Brierley 12JRP

Cambridge Physics

I took part in the Cambridge Senior Physics Challenge - a four-day residential course for 60 top-performing

Academic Departments

Sixth Form physicists. In a group with ten other Sixth Form students, I was lucky enough to spend the week living in Corpus Christi. Lectures on a whole range of subjects, from Quantum Mechanics to Astrophysics, were held in the Pippard Lecture Theatre of the Cavendish Physics Faculty. These were supported by practical sessions in laboratories: experiments included using lasers to calculate the thickness of a hair, a light bulb to estimate the temperature of the sun, as well as tests used to analyse the properties of pendulums.

Evenings were spent in punting sessions, we had dinner in a different college every night and attended the Trinity garden party. The whole was a very enjoyable experience of life at Cambridge.

Thomas Cann 13AMH

British Physics Olympiad

The British Physics Olympiad aims to encourage the study of Physics and provides opportunities for students to stretch lateral thinking skills.

In November, Keir Birchall, Chris Hanak and Josh Keeling sat a 2½ hour paper, usually given to Year 13 students. Chris secured a Bronze Award whilst Josh and Keir received commendations. In March, Ed Nathan, Richard Southern, Charlotte Harrop, Tom Meadows, Tom Cann and Harry Bradbury, sat the one-hour AS Challenge paper. Ed and Richard (pictured) secured impressive Gold Awards, Charlotte, Tom Cann and Tom Meadows gained Silver Awards and Harry received a Bronze Award.

CPH

Psychology

The Psychology Department had another successful and enjoyable year.

Mrs Barbara Collins gave a fascinating talk about her work in stress counselling and relaxation, suggesting techniques that students could use in trying times, such as prior to exams. She also discussed various confidence-boosting techniques.

A PGCE student from the University of Bolton, Ms Nathalie Connor, completed her second teaching placement with us. The process of mentoring helps to keep the department abreast of current changes and ideas in education and we benefited greatly by having Ms Connor with us. She commented very positively about our students and compared them very favourably with other students she had taught.

Students had the opportunity to go on a number of trips. We went to Twycross Zoo where we observed the primates and listened to a talk on the evolution of intelligence. We were able to see our adopted female Bonobo, Banya, and adopted her for another year. Several students went on a residential Psychology Course at Nottingham University where they attended lectures on a wide variety of subjects such as Dream Analysis, The Paranormal, Forensic Psychology, Child Development and Eating Disorders. They were also given advice from the University Admissions Tutor on various aspects of the UCAS application procedure and tips on completing their personal statements.

MJB

Religion and Philosophy

Towards the end of spring term, Miss Agour organised the annual revision weekend to Bollington. Set in the beautiful grounds of Savio House, the group of Year 11 girls and boys spent a thoroughly enjoyable and productive day and a half covering the syllabus in new and interesting ways. The behaviour was exceptional and the event contributed to GCSE results.

Year 7 students visited Manchester, to explore the significant religious diversity present in this area. Students sat transfixed in front of the colourful deities of the Hindu temple, were given a fascinating talk in the Didsbury Mosque and experienced calming meditation at Kagyu Ling Buddhist Centre, in Chorlton. It was a fascinating blend of cultures and the students gained invaluable insights into the differences and similarities between religions.

We continue to update and refresh our online presence. The R&P intranet is popular with students and should become an invaluable resource for parents. In addition to this, RNJ successfully trialled the use of Facebook groups with A Level sets. This proved extremely useful as a means of communication between teachers and students. The trial will be rolled out to Year 12.

RNJ

Resource Centres

The new academic year saw the Resource Centres 'jump ship' from the old intranet to the King's School website. The developments have gathered momentum over the year and now include our current online resources - the library catalogue, subject links, information on new books and online safety. We are delighted to facilitate this new access point and look forward to pupils and staff having an enhanced experience of our service.

This year, the summer competition took the form of a 'Reading Passport' and we had some exciting entries from the Year 7 group including Sam Crosby and Samuel Andresen from the Boys' Division and Megan Huddy and Beth Whiteley from the Girls'. All the Year 7s also participated in the BookBuzz Scheme and Adele Le Moignan became a national runner-up in the competition to design an alternative cover for one of the books. Her beautiful design for *Shadow For-*



est by Matt Haig was very impressive. Another book cover winner was Year 8 pupil, Caitlin Plant (pictured), who was the first runner-up in a national art competition to design a new book cover for the classic *The Railway Children* by E Nesbit. Amongst the judges were Jacqueline Wilson and the illustrator, Jez Alborough.

During a busy Autumn Term, two enthusiastic teams from King's competed in the regional round of the Kids' Lit Quiz held in Warrington. They held their own against a very competitive field. In the Spring, authors Jon Mayhew and Bryony Pearce visited School as part of the celebrations for World Book Day, enthusing pupils (and staff) with their individual approaches to their writing. The celebrations continued with the Inter-House Book Quiz, hosted by the Fence Avenue Resource Centre this year and Gawsorth were worthy winners. A 'Favourite Character Vote' was also held: Winnie-the-Pooh was the top choice at Fence Avenue and Harry Potter at Cumberland Street. World Book Day was also the prompt for our inaugural sponsored 'Readathon'. Pupils read as many books as possible during a 3-week period: through sponsors, they raised funds to support various children's charities.

Throughout the year, pupils participated in the many activities, quizzes, competitions and clubs that the Resource Centres offer. The Carnegie Shadowing Award and the Cheshire Schools' Book Quiz are two large-scale external events undertaken by students and staff, alongside those in-house ones such as the Spanish Easter Word Hunt and Christmas Readings in the Resource Centres.

We are fortunate to work alongside and with so many different departments here in the Resource Centres. Independent research skills are incorporated into the curriculum areas as and when appropriate, and in many guises. These can range from a simple quiz to a murder mystery. Our in-house publications for staff and pupils range from termly newsletters – Kinfo and Info@King's – to ad hoc leaflets, posters, book lists and the like. These highlight the different activities, new materials and opportunities we offer to pupils and staff.

Our statistics show that the boys at King's buck the national trend and do indeed 'read'. This year, RC staff encouraged pupils to recommend

books for purchase and we feel that this ownership of the stock has given an additional boost to borrowing. Stock has also been enhanced by a regular donation from ex-pupil, Mr K L Brookfield. Mr Brookfield acquired an eclectic selection of books for the Resource Centres, for which we are enormously grateful.

LS



This could be me

A scratty terrier lay on my knee,
A stale loaf and an old mug o' tea,
A cigarette stump just dumped next to me,
A sorry sight for anyone to see.

A stillborn child in 2003,
My wife and I grieved but she gave up on me.
My job of a teacher, left me alone,
A box on the road is where I call home.

My money ran out, faded away,
My life has gone but I'm here to stay,
My heart is beating but my soul is dead,
I took for granted my table and bed.

The scraps of my car from the crash in '09,
Forensics came to the scene of the crime.
Left me in a state in the hospital room,
A three-day coma... I woke up too soon.

My life destroyed from depression and ache,
I keep on fighting for my little girl's sake.
I visit the grave four times a week,
I lay down flowers and listen to her speak.

No family, no friends, just here – alone.
In this little place that I call my home.

Sophia Hulme 8LB



Charities

This year, several local, national and international charities benefited from the compassion, generosity and kindness of our pupils. Across the Foundation, we celebrated the fact that our school community raised in excess of £24,000.

In the Autumn Term, the Senior Divisions were delighted to support The Christie which was a particularly poignant choice, following the death of our Deputy Head, David Pook. The Sixth Form Fashion Show was as popular as ever, uniting pupils, parents and teachers alike, to raise £3647.47. The Boys' Division contributed well and showed much initiative in their fundraising activities. The girls at Fence Avenue strove to raise the record amount of £6794. It was a memorable project, especially the Music Department's Evening of Fine Music in November.

The Infant and Junior Division continued to support Destiny Garden in Kenya, while becoming superheroes themselves raising £1919 in their Superhero Run, in aid of the adventure playground at King's.

With three non-uniform days and a variety of fundraising events throughout the year, most notably the triumphant performance of Haydn's *Maria Theresa Mass* in aid of the Syrian refugees (BFC pictured below), King's pupils do indeed fulfil the school's four aims: they work hard to achieve their target of improving the lives of others; they utilise their lively and enquiring minds to develop fundraising ideas; they demonstrate their care for the community and, ultimately, become well-rounded individuals.

LFA

Chess

This year was another prosperous one for chess at King's. The weekly club is increasingly popular amongst lower school boys, drawing in a broad range of skills, from those who are new to the game, to those who play for King's in the chess team.

The team had a very successful year, with wins against Fallibroome HS, Tytherington HS, and Altrincham School for Boys, as well as an enjoyably close match against Stockport GS. However, the chess team did not stop there, and claimed a victory during the Staff versus Students chess match, with one particularly tense match lasting over two hours.



This year also saw the return of the annual inter-house chess tournament for the Boys' Division, with each house entering a four-man team, playing the other houses over three weeks. With fierce competition, the tournament resulted in a draw between Tatton and Gawsworth.

Once again, the club was mentored by Mr Ireland, who helped everyone improve their chess over the year. I must also thank Mr Shaw, who organised and promoted the club, and arranged the many matches we all enjoyed.

Edward Nathan 12AMH

Crossfire

Two versions of this Christian discussion group have met at Cumberland Street this year: one for boys in Years 7 to 11 and one for the Sixth Form.

Boys meeting every Red Week enjoyed a preliminary doughnut (or two!) and activity, followed by a brief presentation of some element of the Christian faith and an opportunity to ask questions or engage in discussion. A particularly popular series of meetings had a sporting theme: 'Is life a Game? ... about success? ... about playing fair?'

Sixth Form meetings had a more erudite air, although the doughnuts have been equally welcome. Topics for discussion were inspired by current affairs or requested by students: Miracles; The Message of 1D (seriously); Gaga or God?; The God Delusion ...

Crossfire meetings are planned and presented by youth workers from Glod (an arm of the work of The Titus Trust, a non-denominational Christian charity) and are administered and overseen by King's teaching staff. Presentations are given in assemblies by Glod staff, inviting pupils and students to residential Easter revision breaks and summer holiday camps in the North and Midlands. This year, these proved to be particularly popular with our pupils.

As with Crossfire, one of the purposes of the Glod holidays is to give young people the chance to explore what they think about the Christian faith and its relevance for today. On the holidays, all attend relaxed and informal meetings, which include short talks and discussions about Jesus and his teachings.

PI



D of E Gold

A Blistering Expedition

In July, in temperatures more suited to Columbia than Cumbria, five groups of Year 12 students undertook their Gold Duke of Edinburgh qualifying expedition.

On Saturday morning, after a comfortable night at Elterwater Youth Hostel and fuelled by a full English breakfast, the groups set off for four days of walking in unrelenting heat - during which they would cover a distance of over 75km, and 3000m of ascent, whilst carrying packs of 20kg!

The pink group:

We had an interesting encounter on our third day, when we were ambushed by a herd of heifers, who took a particular disliking to one of our members. As they were blocking our path from the field and were refusing to back down, we decided to make a beeline for the nearest gate. Our group's fears were added to when the bull, who until that point had been relatively apathetic, decided to wander over to the gate, which suddenly looked very insubstantial, and take an interest. But, in general, we came away with a great sense of achievement, having bonded as a group and strengthened friendships, and were very grateful for the opportunity to participate.

The black group:

On our best day, which coincidentally was our last, we spent the morning climbing high up one of the steepest hills on our route, before an afternoon walking along the skyline. The sense of achievement we felt after conquering the climb, and then wandering up amongst the clouds, made us feel incredible. The amazing panoramic views we witnessed throughout the expedition were breathtaking and well worth the effort.

The blue group:

Our favourite group memories were stopping at a beautiful tarn on the morning of the second day and wanting to stay there forever, in the sun. We also had a relaxing evening at Coniston Hall campsite, where everyone went swimming in the lake, after a very hot, humid day of walking. We kept our group spirits up with story times, where tales of Harry Potter or *The Hobbit* were read aloud.



The orange group:

One of our strongest memories from the expedition would have to be saving a sheep from being stuck in a fence, as well as encountering the same unfriendly cows as the pink group. However, our favourite moment was eating Gold Bars at the top of our last ascent.

The green group:

We particularly enjoyed getting back to the campsite first every night, so that we could watch as other groups arrived miserable, hot and sweaty, as we were relaxing and eating tea with our tents all set up. Jumping in lakes and rivers was a welcome escape from the heat, and made it feel like a holiday, but then we would have to put our rucksacks back on!

Despite the record-breaking temperatures, blistered feet, and swollen bites, all the groups made it to the finish in Coniston. However the most impressive (or desperate) finish came from the pink group, when they came in first at 3.15. Running through the centre of Coniston, looking for the Tourist Information Centre, whilst bemused locals watched, they were quite a sight.

We are pleased to report that all the groups finished their expedition successfully, despite the oppressive heat, persistent horseflies, and painful blisters. All students finished sweaty, smiley, and satisfied.

JPB

Enrichment

The enrichment programme continued to stretch and challenge students throughout the year, with both its workshop programme and its series of trips and events. This year's workshops included a wide range of subjects ranging from the economics of developing countries to problem-solving and the trading ethics of large, multi-national companies. They involved students from every year group and most of the events were mixed. Highlights included not one but two epic Third World trading games where teams had to manufacture objects to sell in an ever-changing market. This created a frantic atmosphere and some very entertaining trading techniques, as promises were made and, occasionally, broken. The game was very popular across the Foundation and encouraged students to think about how poorer nations must use their unique resources to generate income. Another popular event was a problem-solving session for Year 7 students, who spent hours solving a series of problems, which included complex codes, logic problems and practical problems. The hardest conundrum was to calculate the number of hairs on an average human body, using a roll of kitchen paper, calculator, sellotape, marker pen and a lot of lateral thinking.

The final event for Year 10 was based on iconic images and how to use them to create interactive learning resources using post-it notes. Versions of the Facebook 'f' and Apple's

logo looked spectacular, whilst also containing huge amounts of information. So successful was this technique, that the posters were used at a training event for newly-qualified teachers as examples of innovative teaching ideas.

External trips included the ever-popular Dragons' Den competition; events at local universities such as engineering competitions and science events; a maths problem-solving event, and a number of language competitions. The year finished with a stream of successes: teams from King's won STEM engineering competitions at Manchester and Sheffield Universities; chemistry competitions at Manchester and a national German competition, culminating in a prize ceremony at Oxford University. These successes were a fitting end to another outstanding year during which King's pupils were set some daunting challenges which, with their usual aplomb, they met and thoroughly enjoyed.

JSS

Junior School Visits

The programme of junior school visits continued with six Sixth Form students from the enrichment programme running a wide variety of workshops for local schools. These ranged from team building to science and involved over 200 students from local schools. The first two visits were to Marlborough Junior School and to King's own juniors and were based around team building and problem solving activities. The team also visited Marlborough later in the year to run a science afternoon involving over 80 students taking part in four different activities.

The first visit of Greenbank Prep School to King's saw a fun-packed science afternoon complete with giant foam worms, flaming hands and screaming jelly babies. The afternoon started with the students making silly putty and polymorph key rings. They then moved on to producing firework flame colours, punching the non-Newtonian liquid custard and exploding tubes of hydrogen. However the excitement generated by this was nothing compared to the joy the group felt seeing their first exploding jelly baby. Greenbank students also had their hands set alight, including the very brave Mr Dunn. The finale of the day was the giant foam worm, which appears to grow from no-



where. The students from Greenbank were a pleasure to work with.

The annual visit of Pownall Hall to King's was also a great success. A group of Year 5 and Year 6 students spent an afternoon in the Fence Avenue Science labs doing experiments, watching demonstrations and having fun. Everyone went home clutching home-made silly putty and everlasting key rings, having witnessed an escaped jelly baby, who leapt flaming from the test tube, before being recaptured and returned to his fiery fate. The students from Pownall were very enthusiastic and they were, in turn, impressed by the expertise of the Sixth Form helpers, as well as the bravery of Alex Morris and Ellie Boardman, who became human targets for the pop bottle rockets.

The final event saw the team visit Altrincham Prep to run a science-based afternoon for 92 Year 5 boys. This tested the skills of the Sixth Form students, who managed to run four different activities, including an archery competition involving air-powered rockets and the very famous custard corner. The afternoon finished with a Hallowe'en themed bangs and flashes show; the giant exploding pumpkin gained a spontaneous round of applause and made a mess of the school's car park.

The Sixth Form team involved in running the visits were wonderful ambassadors for King's and they developed a wide range of skills during the two years they ran the programme.

JSS

Extended Studies

The Extended Studies programme, undertaken by students in Year 13, enjoyed a very productive year. Students benefited and learnt a great deal from the wide range of subjects available including Japanese, General Studies, Theatre Studies, Sports Leadership and the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). Each subject brings its own challenges and rewards, and lessons reflect this. The Japanese students, as a reward for their hard work, learned how to make sushi. The General Studies students were asked to be creative as part of the Culture and Society unit - some were even brave enough to sing in front of their classmates. The EPQ students carried out their presentations in March and subjects included everything from projects considering the issues surrounding badger culling, to the development of graphic novels. The presentations were superb and thoroughly enjoyable.

MM

Runway on the Runway

This 'promtastic' fashion extravaganza and charity event took place in March, and starred twelve lucky pupils from Years 12 and 13. The Fashion Show was held in the Runway Centre at Manchester Airport. The catwalk spanned the length of the iconic Concorde and students from ten local schools, including King's, modelled

prom wear from some of the best international designers. Many members of our Sixth Form community contributed towards this spectacular event through their involvement as models or by assisting with photography, journalism, fashion styling, choreography, hair styling, make-up and fundraising.

Staff played their part too, in this fund-raising effort. Four brave members of staff abseiled down the Physics block. This was not, however, a normal abseil, as they were 'dressed' for the occasion: Mr Street modelled a tutu; Mrs Roberts was in a onesie; Mrs Broadley was glamorous in a pink wig and red stilettos whilst Mr Mason made the abseil as a chicken! Technical support on top of the building was provided by Dr Fitzgerald and Mr Edgerton. Staff and pupils observed and sponsored the event, raising a large sum of money.

As well as fund-raising, the aim of these events was to draw attention to teenage cancer, especially in the North West, where awareness is amongst the lowest in the UK. The money raised was donated to three charities: Teenage Cancer Trust, Make a Wish and Medcare.

HLB

House Activities

There was a host of exciting competitions and the aim was to 'cater for all' in this year's Fence Avenue House activities. Mathematicians enjoyed Suduko, Kakuro and the Killer Quiz. Sportswomen fought hard in House Hockey, Netball, Rounders and on Sports' Day. Musicians made music and warbled in Christmas Songs whilst artists put their creative skills to good use to design outfits for House Mascots. The quick and agile raced to the cups in the Speed Stack and scientists flooded to the Hall for the ever-popular Science Quiz.

Book lovers relished their involvement in the Book Quiz; debaters discussed topics with great passion and academic excellence was rewarded with many merits.

In addition to all these challenges and events, everyone congregated to enjoy the Fence Avenue tradition of the Gym Competition and the National Dress Fashion Show.

The House System at Fence Avenue was a hive of activity and the winning House was Gawsworth.

HLB



Knit and Natter

Knit and Natter is a new and interesting club, which attracted girls from across the Year groups to meet at 1pm every Thursday. Our aim was to knit a blanket for use on the bed outside the Nurses' office. Some girls were already experienced knitters, but others learnt to knit under the guidance of Mrs Balcombe and were

helped by older girls. Some girls just came for a chat! Our efforts were supported by the Friends of King's who provided knitting needles and wool; we must also thank members of staff, who also donated materials.

We knitted, we purled, and next year, we may aspire to turn a heel!

Anna Withington 10VHB



NAMIBIA

Namibia is true frontier country, with dirt-track roads linking far-flung settlements, vast farms covering areas which are larger than individual UK counties, and huge game reserves, teeming with lions, leopards and with more cheetahs than in all the rest of the African continent.

Thirty-two students and three members of staff spent four weeks in Namibia travelling, working and living life the African way. Two teams followed identical itineraries as they criss-crossed the country in large overland trucks, avoiding wandering wild life. The trip divided into four elements, each with its own challenges and adventures.



Photograph by Jim Street

Project

The phrase 'once in a lifetime' is over-used but the project phase of this trip truly fitted this description.

The project was spent with the San people of the Kalahari; they are a people whose DNA is considered to be the oldest on earth and who may be counted as ancestors to every person on the planet. The San live the same life they have for millennia: hunting in the bush with spears and poison arrows and surviving in one of the harshest environments in the world. The aim of the project was to bring water from the deep Artesian well, located outside the village, into the campsite on the village edge which was intended to attract hardy travellers into the village. This involved digging a deep trench, through the African bush, putting in pipes and taps both to bring water into the camp and to make the pipe elephant-proof. 'Elephant-proof' is essential for the San. They live side-by-side with



huge herds of elephants, each of which needs 100s of litres of water a day and each of which can dig a few metres into the ground. And, as everyone knows, elephants have very long noses, so they are adept at locating water below ground. The task was very demanding: it required students to dig a 500m long, 2-foot deep trench, through African bush, with temperatures approaching 35 degrees. However, the team

threw themselves into the job and each morning, as dawn broke, a line of students could be seen heading off into the bush with picks, shovels, rakes and other implements of destruction for their pre-breakfast digging session. Rocks, roots, scorpions and much more were encountered, but the students stuck to the task and at the end of the trip, the trench was finished, the pipe laid and connected, and water was flowing through taps into the village campsite. The walk to water that every villager had to make, on a daily basis, had been cut from 1.5km to a mere 250m.

This would in itself have been a massive achievement, but the students also did a bit of teaching; quite a bit of teaching, in fact. The two teams ran the school for a total of four days between them. They taught all the lessons to the three

classes, ran after-school sports, cooked the school dinners in the world's biggest cooking pot and then acted as 'dinner ladies'. This was an amazing experience: our pupils worked with the wonderfully keen local children, whose enthusiasm for learning and taking part was itself a lesson in making the most of difficult circumstances. King's students performed impressively; they taught lessons which were interactive, fun and educational, as well as producing a memorable sports day.

In addition to the work, students spent time tracking animals with the San. Whilst no animals were found, it was clear that leopard, lion, and elephant were all wandering around the camp site unbeknownst to the students and staff. It was also clear that the San were a people who knew how to survive - fires were made in an instant using just two pieces of wood (yes, that does really happen). Poison arrows were fired with unerring accuracy and spears hurled huge distances. These experiences were as close as it is possible to get to a true hunter-gatherer existence and were a significant highlight of the trip for our students.

On departing the village, both teams managed to fit in a game of football against the local high school. This sounds a normal run-of-the-mill activity but in fact involved 500 spectators screaming and chanting, an opposition in full Nike kit (thanks to the enterprising Emily Mound) and possessing a dazzling array of skills. Both King's teams were soundly beaten at football and netball, but the chance to play football in remote Africa was unique - and not one of the team had ever played in front of a larger crowd.

Events & Activities

Safari

Each team spent three days in Etosha National Park camping, driving up and down the dirt roads looking for game and sitting silently around dimly-lit waterholes whilst rhino wandered grumpily up to the water. Vicious honey badgers wandered through the campsites, jackals stole food and mongoose herds swept everything before them. Elephants were everywhere, as were rhino - this supposed endangered animal seemed to be ubiquitous in Etosha, with five being seen at one waterhole. One team saw two leopards with a kill whilst the other had lions everywhere and both left having enjoyed a quintessentially African experience.

Coast

The Skeleton Coast is infamous as one of the most desolate places on the planet: huge waves pound onto vast empty beaches that stretch for thousands of miles, whilst inland is endless desert. At one end, lies Swakopmund and Walvis Bay, whilst the other disappears into Angola. Both teams camped at remote beach sites, having stopped off on the way to witness the unique sight of 80,000 Cape fur seals gathered around a small point on the coast. This sight was a sensual assault – the smell was overpowering, the noise of tens of thousands of mother seals calling to their cubs was deafening and the sight of the huge males waddling down the beach was truly comical.

The campsites were empty and it was the only time on the trip that the weather actually could be described as poor, although the mist, drizzle and dampness did evoke memories of home. Having survived a whole day without sun, the group headed to Swakopmund for three days of rest and relaxation. This involved body surfing, whale watching and spending time in the wonderful cafés and shops of Swakopmund. It also meant that clothes could be washed, pizzas eaten and hot showers used to excess. The highlight of the coast trip was the day spent sand-boarding in the beautiful dunes overlooking Walvis Bay. This simple sport involves lying on huge cardboard sheets and sliding down huge banks of sand at speeds in excess of 70kmh. Wipe-outs were common but, by the time the students had graduated to the last run, which contained a large jump, they were experts at driving their boards.



Desert

The desert part of the trip took part in Sossusvlei National Park. This huge expanse of land consisted of hundreds of sand dunes, some of which are amongst the largest on the planet, as well as petrified forests which are thousands of years old. The students climbed huge dunes, trekked through the desert to remote valleys of petrified trees and stalked springbok through the dunes. The scenery was awe-inspiring, and constantly changing: the sight of light from the rising sun creeping along the face of 1000 foot high sand dunes, was indescribable.

Trekking

The trekking stage took place in the beautiful Naukluft National Park in

southern Namibia. This huge escarpment contained multiple trekking trails, large numbers of mountain zebra and the highest density of leopards in Southern Africa. The aim was to complete two treks through the mountains and spend time swimming in the many rock pools around the campsite. The shorter Olive trail was a beautiful walk with a sting in the tail. After four hours of wander-



ing through idyllic gorges as troops of baboons moved by and mountain zebra ran up the hillsides, the students were met with what was quickly nicknamed the 'gorge of death'. This was a short, steep-sided section of gorge that had to be traversed by holding onto chains and leaning out over the sides of the gorge. This was a nerve-wracking experience, especially as one slip would have meant a long drop into a deep pool and stagnant water. The students took different approaches but all managed to make the descent even if it took some a little longer than others. The main trek was a wonderful 20 km wander across the high veld and through deep gorges. Whilst no leopards were seen, a fresh kill was found by one team and it was a little disconcerting to know that there was a leopard close by the group. The highlight of this trek, were the natural swimming pools at the end, which allowed the groups to cool off in style.

Spitzkoppe

Spitzkoppe National Park sits 150 miles from the coast and contains hundreds of rock domes that climb vertically out of the desert. Both teams spent three days exploring the park. This statement in no way does justice to the time the students spent scrambling on pristine rocks, climbing through caves and up onto remote ledges, and watching the sunlight move across immense rock faces. The campsites were idyllic and the stars at night were stunning, with the entire sky lit up like a planetarium. The highlight was the night the teams spent sleeping on top of one of the rocks. Campfires were lit and the students slept under the star-lit sky, trying to stay warm as the desert wind howled across the summit. The next day, saw the dawn's light shining on a huddle of cold bodies but warmth soon returned as the sun rose in the sky, when the students descended for breakfast by the fire.

The expedition was an amazing success from every perspective. The students involved threw themselves into every activity and task that came their way and were a credit to King's in all that they did. In addition, Mr Puddephat and Miss Barton worked incredibly hard in giving up a large part of their summer holiday to ensure that the trip was the success it was.



Outdoor Activities

The start of the outdoor year was blessed with clear if cold weather. Journeying with a group of fourteen students to Mid Wales on an evening of very heavy showers, it looked as though the weather might be against us, but by Bala, the sky was clear and as the camp site was reached, the stars were out in force.

A frosty morning followed but the sun was warm as the group walked out, under a clear blue sky, to the summit of Cadair Idris. After lunch, the group plunged down an adventurous descent to the impressive Llyn Cau, ringed with dark crags. After a short dip in the lake (feet only!) the ascent by the Minfordd path seemed easier and everyone climbed steadily to the summit plateau for a second time, before taking the alternative descent to the large lake below the summit, surrounded by yet more impressive crags. As the sun dipped, the group dropped down through ancient oak and birch woods back to camp, where a welcome rest was had.

The second day was cloudier, with a keener wind. Nevertheless, the ascent of Aran Fawddwy was undertaken, through some of the wettest terrain outside Scotland. At 905m, this is the highest mountain beyond the main Snowdonia range and it is very reminiscent of the Highlands in the rough nature of the going under foot. The whole group made it to the summit ridge, where they entered the mist; a smaller raiding party of seven made a dash for the main summit. All were reunited on the descent, which was fairly speedy. The clouds were getting lower and the wind stronger, but the rain held off and only began as the bus pulled into school.

After half term, a group of 27 students from Years 7 - 13 plus staff, visited the comfortable Old School Bunkhouse near Ingleton for a weekend of walking and caving. Venues beneath Ingleborough were good for a novice group, although a little wet. The older pupils climbed Pen-y-ghent as the weather improved and the sun came out, before meeting the others for a high-calorie lunch at the Ribblehead Burger van! In the afternoon, the roles reversed, with the younger group scrambling up the waterfall at Goredale and the older ones getting remarkably wet in Borrins Moor and Upper Long Churn caves. On Sunday morning, a stronger, older subgroup



put in a request for the Old Ing to Dismal Hill cave, which is a very physical undertaking; it was achieved with only a few bumps and bangs, whilst the rest traversed Ingleborough in the frost to Ingleton. By mid-afternoon, the buses were packed and everyone was on the way home. We had been lucky with the weather once again.

The end of the Autumn was celebrated with the beginning of Winter, as a canoeing and manhunt trip to North Wales was held in beautiful, cold weather yet again! The sun glinting off Llyn Padarn made it difficult to see, and the cold was alleviated by the fire, built on the shore, to toast marshmallows. The Cwm Pennant bunkhouse made a very comfortable



base and Sunday was used to good effect, with a prolonged session of manhunt on Anglesey; this was perhaps a little damp and cool but all survived and overall it made a memorable end to the term's activities.

The Spring Term usually starts with a bang and this year was no exception. A two-week period of cold weather came to a dramatic conclusion on the weekend the students headed off to Helvellyn Youth Hostel. It was an adventurous journey up the snowy M6, alongside the snowplough at times, to arrive finally at Glenridding, which looked more like an alpine ski resort. Once safely there, it was time to relax and the next day saw the group head back via the buses, to collect equipment, and on into Grisedale. The ascent up to the Hole in the Wall was a little arduous, but near the top, it was enlivened by a stop to dig a very big snowhole, which several students tested out



by having their lunch inside. It was a beautiful day, which tempted the group to go on and climb to the summit via Swirral Edge, which was deep in snow and exciting. Once on the top the weather turned decidedly Scottish, with hail and strong winds. After a gusty descent off Low Man, it just remained to take the zig-zags down into Brown Cove, passing some optimistic skiers on the way down. Various means of travel were tested, with sliding on the bottom proving most effective. In the last mile to the hostel, the rain began and it grew in intensity as the evening progressed.

The next morning, it was still raining. There had been a huge loss of snow, and as forecast, the heavy rain stopped at 0930 and apart from strong wind and one hail shower, the party was untroubled by precipitation, until they left just after lunch. This allowed a lower level route round by Angle Tarn to be done, with an optional ascent of Place Fell. Those who did this had winds in excess of 70 mph to contend with; the best way to deal with it seemed to be to sit on the grass and slide! The valley was a pleasant relief from the blasts and chatting merrily soon brought everyone back together at Hartsop and the journey home, by now in spring-like sunshine.

A combined trip with Mr O'Donnell, enabled pupils to enjoy a mix of activities in early March. A well-appointed outdoor centre near the shores of Derwent Water was the base, with an opportunity to ori-



enteer on a course partly set by Mr O'Donnell and the centre on Saturday, followed by some more canoeing on Sunday, with the instructors from GR8. It was an oversubscribed trip, which is good to see.

The last outing on the calendar for the Spring Term was a one-day walk on the Kinder Plateau. After a doom-laden weather forecast, it was a surprise to have nothing more than a few flakes of snow and plenty of sunshine, along with good visibility for much of the day. The length of the Edale valley was traversed from near Upper Booth before a climb into Jaggers Clough led Mr Edgerton on another whim, as he set off up a small path alongside

the clough to emerge eventually onto the main southern edge path, before heading into the mist and on to Madwoman Stones.

The mist lifted to show the trig point in the distance and great fun was had trying to take the frozen sections across the peat, to avoid being sucked under! One of the girls had a lucky escape from that fate when Oliver Jones pulled her out. The descent by Ringing Roger led to the café and lunch, after which the group headed back up Grindsbrook Clough, before more off-piste excursions took them to Grindslow Knoll and a fine open view. All that remained was the direct descent to Upper Booth, made faster by sliding down the steep, smooth grass. A short stretch along the road brought everyone back to the minibus, from what had been a very pleasant and enjoyable expedition.

The first trip of the summer, after all the excitement of wet Year 9 camps and Bronze D of E, was to Snowdonia for yet another attempt to traverse all the 14 3000' peaks of the region. In addition, a group of the younger pupils did the classic gorge scramble of Afon Ddu in the Conwy valley. The older group left the valley at 0600 and, in windy and cloudy weather, crossed Snowdon then Crib Goch, before descending to a second breakfast in the Llanberis valley. After the painful ascent of Elidir Fawr they were blown in strengthening winds across the Glyders, before the sun came out as they summited Tryfan. At Ogwen, a status report was taken and in view of the wind and the



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threat of rain to come, mixed with tiredness, a decision not to continue was taken. However, Miss Aspinall then suggested finishing the job the next day. So, whilst Mr Street and Mr Thompson headed for Tryfan with the youngsters, the 3K group climbed the Carneddau and had a fantastic day in increasing sunshine with much lighter winds, thus completing a successful crossing of the range, albeit in two bites!

The final trip of the year was both land and water-based. The hospitable campsite on Anglesey hosted us once again, providing an evening meal of fish and chips which was lapped up by all, both pupils and staff. On Saturday, the activities consisted of coasteering, which involved jumping from ever-greater heights, which become increasingly scary, into deep water by the edge of the cliffs – safer than it sounds! Later, the group moved along the coast and did sea-level traversing, climbing near the water, where a slip or fall has humorous, rather than painful, consequences! After a comfortable night, Mr O'Donnell set everyone an orienteering exercise around the Rhoscolyn area, using a map he had prepared personally. This proved to be a suitable finale for the year, even though the lack of suncream did leave a few people red-faced.

PME

Winter Walking

This year's winter trip to the Lake District could best be described by one word - epic. Having read every available weather forecast and then left school on a sleety Friday, the brave group headed towards the Lake District and, with perfect timing and local knowledge, made it to within a mile of their youth hostel accommodation. From then on it was every man and woman for him/herself. The students had been forewarned and were kitted up ready for the winter conditions; however a number of them had brought wheelie bags, which proved to be a little difficult to manoeuvre in very, very deep snow.

The next day brought sunshine, strong winds and more deep, deep snow. After some steep ascents, a lunch stop was reached and Mr Edgerton used all his years of experience to produce an amazing snow hole, of true grandeur, for the group to eat in. Fortified and clutching ice axes, the team felt ready to tackle



the perils of Swirral Edge. This was a wonderful ascent, in beautifully still conditions, and the deep snow made it much easier than it looked. The summit proved a 'little' windy, so after an 'entertaining' descent through the clouds, down steep, snow slopes whilst cowering from the driving sleet, the group was relieved to return to the warmth of the hostel, where all told fantastic tales of snow and ice.

The next day was even windier but the group attempted to reach the High Street, a fell named after the old Roman road that ran across it. After lengthy discussions about the practicalities of wearing togas in mountain

conditions, and the possible problems faced by legionaries, the team headed upwards into the mist. The summit attempt ended in defeat, due to the gale force winds, but the team still managed to spot deer, ascend Place Fell and brave the conditions, even at lunchtime, when hail stones the size of golf balls fell, sending everyone running for cover.

JSS

Coasteering

This year's coasteering trip to Anglesey saw 24 pupils and 5 members of staff spend a weekend jumping from cliffs, riding zip wires over the sea and navigating their way around sand dunes. There were three activities: coasteering, sea-level traversing and a zip wire. All three required bravery, skill and a sense of fun. There were many highlights: Mr Thompson's attempted somersaults into the sea; Dr Fitzgerald's effortless zip wire ride and Mr Street rising feet first from the depths, after a cliff jump. The students performed exceptionally well, especially on the last cliff jump which was a full thirty feet above the sea and required a great deal of bravery, as well as skill. The action-packed day finished with a mass game of football and fish and chips in the sun.

The next day saw a King's first: a school group orienteering on a course mapped and designed by Mr O'Donnell. This tough course over heath and dunes saw teams competing in pairs to complete 12 checkpoints in relay format. Students ran through gorse, scaled boulders, leapt high fences. The event was a great



success and was aided by Ben and Jake O'Donnell, who not only helped set out the course, but also assisted quite a few lost students to find the checkpoints.

JSS

Gorge Scrambling

A hardy group of ten students and staff spent a pleasant morning relaxing by swimming up a river, climbing waterfalls, crawling through narrow, water-filled gaps and leaping from rocks into deep plunge pools. The Afon Dhu river was in fine form and overnight rain lent a little extra weight to the force of the water. In addition, added obstacles, such as tree stumps, had been pulled into the river, increasing the difficulty of the ascent. After getting wet by sliding down a smooth rock face, the team weaved its way up to the first real challenge: the infamous Elephant's Bum crawl through. This is a narrow tunnel between two rocks, filled with fast-flowing water, where the only escape is a vertical shute. The team made light work of the crawl, despite the torrent going through it, and were soon climbing the first waterfall of the day. The next two hours, saw the group showering under a waterfall, swimming across plunge pools and trying to climb on top of slippery boulders whilst the river did its best to wash everyone downstream. The scramble finished with a session of rock jumping: each participant had to jump from a narrow ledge into a plunge pool, aiming to land in the deep part so as to avoid being washed over the nearby waterfall.

JSS



Year 9 Camp

The Year 9 girls' camps were a great success: the weather was kind, the midges were fewer in number and bloodthirstiness than usual, and the paths were clear and easy to follow. As a result the girls had a great experience walking in the Peak District, cooking for themselves, braving badgers and sheep on the campsite, and coping with the night walk into the gloom and dark of Lud's Church. Each of the forms showed great team work skills and supported each other magnificently. The speed they walked at was very impressive, as was the huge number of sweets, crisps and chocolate that was consumed en route. The late night expedition into Lud's Church was a highlight; this chasm was formed by an ancient earthquake, which legend says was used by the Luddites for secret meetings, before they wreaked havoc on nearby mills. This annual precursor to the Duke of Edinburgh awards expeditions is very popular with students and these participants were no exception.

JSS

Ski Trip

The week before Christmas, a group of twenty Sixth Form pupils and five staff went to La Plagne, France for a week. It was snowing when we arrived which continued all week, mainly at night, creating perfect skiing conditions. During the day, we skied for several hours with our guide, Mark, who improved techniques, showed us some great slopes and pointed out stunning views of the Alpine range. A smaller group took part in the off-piste course for five days and were taken on some more challenging areas of the mountain.

The food in the hotel was great with the highlight being afternoon tea, which was perfect after a day's skiing. After dinner, we relaxed in the hotel or went out: on one very enjoyable evening, we went to the bobsleigh track, where some of us braved the 90km/h speeds. We had a wonderful week.

Laura Venables and Hattie McCance 12LCW

Surfing trip

In a summer of great weather, the four days which sixteen students and four staff spent surfing in Cornwall, were probably amongst the hottest of the year, with temperatures hitting the high 20s each day. The sea glistened and the sand glimmered like gold. Unfortunately, hot weather does not often produce big waves: the first three days offered waves that were small but ideal for beginners, so surfing lessons went exceptionally well. Everyone managed to get up and remain standing all the way to the beach. For some of the staff, this took a little more effort. In addition to surfing, the teams tried their skill at beach volleyball, cricket, touch rugby and other beach activities. Due to the calm conditions, there was also the opportunity to swim around the rocks and to take part in some open water



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training. The evenings were spent sitting in the youth hostel garden (below), watching the sun drop into the ocean, whilst cooking on the BBQ, or visiting local tin mines, perched on the edge of cliffs. As ever, the trip was a huge success, and this year, it was an especially golden, if rare, start to a great British summer.

JSS

School Council

The School Council at Fence Avenue had some excellent achievements to report this year. Some were very significant and had an impact on all the girls in the Division. A Canteen Committee was established which met twice a term, to discuss developments to the canteen. As a result, themed days and menus, plus feature sandwiches were introduced. Various refurbishments to cloakroom facilities were implemented, following proposals by Council members and the girls they represented. The Prefect Selection procedure was reviewed and amended following suggestions from the School Council.

Other developments were smaller, though still important. Improvements

to school planners were suggested and agreed. A new 'Lost and Found' Board for lost property was set up. A new School Council Notice Board was established, on which minutes and other Council matters could be publicised to the Division.

All forms sent representatives to the meetings, which were also attended by Dr Hyde, Mr Griffiths and Mrs Anderson.

HLB

Year 12 and 13 Aspire

'Aspire' sessions ran all year in the Sixth Form as part of our aim to challenge all pupils to 'aspire, work hard and achieve'. The weekly sessions run for an hour after school and are open to all who want to tackle tasks and topics not covered in lessons. Sometimes the sessions contained a practical challenge such as trying to run a hospital following utilitarian principles; sometimes they were theoretical: does language form thought or thought form language? On one memorable occasion, humanities students challenged the scientists to a debate with the motion, 'Poetry is beautiful but science is what matters.'

'Aspire' proved to be an enjoyable way for those who were making highly competitive university applications to hone skills and develop confidence when dealing with unfamiliar material.

RHR

Zoo Club

Zoo Club continued to be a magnet to young zoologists at Fence Avenue. Large numbers of girls flocked to the Biology lab two lunchtimes a week, to see the many snakes, geckos and fish that share our departmental habitat.

The reptiles continued to thrive in the Animal room, enjoying a regular change of bedding and tasty mouse for dinner. The marine tank, a wonderfully eye-catching ecosystem with an array of marine life, was a marvel for all our visitors. New additions included some fabulous Fire Shrimp, which enhanced the invertebrate biodiversity within the tank.

The girls spent lunchtimes handling the animals, learning about their behaviours and ensuring they are well cared for: they are possibly the best-loved snakes in Macclesfield!

HLB



Charity

In the Autumn Term, King's Infant and Junior Division held their Annual Harvest Festival. After the service, pupils brought gifts of food, some of which were distributed by Year 6 to the residents of Winlow Flats, Macclesfield. The remainder went to help those in need at Macclesfield Care and Concern, Cradle Concern and Silklife Church Foodbank.

In November, the Junior School Council organized a charity day in aid of Christie's. Activities included a cake stall, Guess the Name of the Teddy, Treasure Island Hunt, Book Sale and a coin-roll made, rather ingeniously, from the 'car ramp' experiment Year 5 had been investigating in their Science lessons! The charity day raised a grand total of £531.92.

In December, the School Council held a 'basket raffle' in aid of Destiny Garden School in Kenya. This event (in conjunction with the Christmas Post Office and Christmas Service collection) raised £1100 for Destiny Garden School.

In the New Year, Infant and Junior pupils supported Red Nose Day: the non-uniform day combined with a raffle raised a total of 492.85 for the charity.

Later in the Spring term, the School Council organized a luxury chocolate box, which was then raffled, raising £200 for the Zion Orphanage in Jerusalem.

In the summer term, Upper Junior Pupils decided to turn their fundraising efforts towards an adventure playground for the Lower Junior and Infant pupils. The Sponsored Superhero Run was not only a great success but it also raised £2463.25.

In total, the Infant and Junior Division raised in excess of £5000 for charity.

NS



Enrichment

This year, a wide variety of opportunities were offered to pupils to enrich their learning. Kagan teaching and learning strategies were adopted by Infant and Junior staff, to be used alongside our traditional teaching methods. All pupils are encouraged simultaneously to participate in question and answer sessions, role play and discussion activities.

The Infant Department started using a new literacy scheme in September 2012 called Read Write inc. A review in June demonstrated the progress made by our pupils, especially that of the Pre-School children, who had all reached an advanced stage for their age.

The Big Write was introduced in September 2012 to ensure that children throughout the Junior Department become confident and increasingly able writers. Staff witnessed a vast improvement in pupils' writing and introduced half-termly challenges to stretch the more able writers.

Junior writers won 3rd place in a national poetry writing competition, entitled Travel Back in Rhyme, organized by 'Young Writers'. One of our gifted writers, Remy Miller, won the prize for having the best poem in the competition.

Many Year 5 and 6 pupils took part in the Primary Maths Challenge, a national problem-solving paper aimed at challenging more able pupils. Eight of our pupils achieved Gold Award, fourteen Silver, and nineteen Bronze. Aisling Day, Matthew Hall and Aidan Carman, Year 6, and David Harris, Year 5, qualified for the Primary Maths Challenge Finals paper.

In the Junior Maths Challenge U13 age group, Junior pupils won 7 Bronze awards, 1 Silver with two Year 6 pupils, Matthew Hall and William Cann, winning Gold awards.

Congratulations must go to the Year 6 pupils who were awarded an academic scholarship into our Senior School. These pupils were Aidan Carman, Aisling Day, Matthew Hall, Sam Jones and Jamie Shuttleworth. Max Hine and Aisling Day were awarded Music Scholarships.

Junior pupils participated in a variety of inspiring art activities. During Art Week, in the Autumn Term, Year 3 worked with textile artist Liz Spinks to create textile pyramids for their History work on Ancient Egypt. Year 4 and Year 6 pupils worked for two days with willow sculptor, Caroline

Gregson and produced two sculptures of baby elephants. Year 4 adopted a cross-curricular approach and applied their mathematical skills to create pieces of art work inspired by Mondrian. Year 5 attended workshop sessions run by staff in the Senior Division and visited the Whitworth Art Gallery in Manchester.

In May, FOKIJ organised an Art Exhibition to display pupils' work in a gallery format with each picture hung and framed. The theme of the exhibition was 'The Seasons' and it was delightful to see the range of styles used to portray aspects of nature.

A final year art student from Manchester Metropolitan University, Elena Borodenko and spent three days with Years 3, 4 & 5 pupils who were encouraged to learn new skills, from which a beautiful flowery display was produced.

Junior Chess players competed in the AJIS Chess tournament in November and performed extremely well against stiff opposition. Congratulations went to William Cann who won a coveted AJIS Silver Medal. The chess club also runs a school tournament annually which is part of the Schools' Chess Challenge. This year, 5 pupils scored the required points to take part in the area finals, and three pupils (William Cann, Jodie Foxton and Freddie Higginbotham) went on to the North West finals.

Talented actors have been encouraged to take on parts in musicals and class assemblies and instrumentalists

and talented writers to perform and read individually in Music and Words assemblies. The Music Festival provided an opportunity for all Juniors to compete on their chosen instrument, with Year 5 and Year 6 winners performing in Prizegiving and the end-of-year concert.

NS

Chess Club

The chess club continued to attract a regular attendance of 15 - 20 players over the winter and spring terms, including experienced players and those new to chess.

A keen team of 13 from Years 3 - 6 spent an engaging day in November at the AJIS competition in Bolton, coming home with a silver medal for William Cann in the Year 6 Intermediate competition. The children new to tournaments did well in their five matches, and no one came home without scoring a point.

Our club tournament was hotly contested again, with a separate competition this year for the Year 3 beginners, which was won by Lily Cook. Victory in the main tournament went once again to William Cann in Year 6 for the School champion shield, although he was run a close second by both Jodie Foxton and David Harris. Congratulations to William, Jodie, David, Freddie Higginbotham and Louis Adkins, who all scored the required points to qualify for the North West finals, held during the Easter holidays. William, Jodie and Freddie then went on to take part in the Northern Giga-





finals in the summer term, showing their strong play against talented opposition.

VF AA

Christmas Theatre

Pre-School and Reception's presentation of *Hey Ewe* was a charming re-telling of the Nativity. Told through the eyes of a curious sheep and all her friends. The same afternoon, Key Stage One entertained a packed audience with solo pianists and Infant choir performing seasonal pieces before everyone presented *The Bossy Christmas Fairy*. The meaning of Christmas was discovered through words, songs and dances led by 2ES and fantastically supported by 2CW/MB and Year One, who dazzled in sparkling costumes. Once again, the audience was left amazed at what such young children are able to achieve.

Egyptian Trip

Year 3 studied the Ancient Egyptian culture during the Autumn and first half of the Spring terms. They enjoyed a cross curricular approach to the topic, using not only History lessons to look at the land, beliefs and evidence about the Egyptian civilisation, but also art to study objects such as jewellery and funeral ware, and ICT to research the roles of the many Egyptian Gods and Goddesses and to produce graphic art too.

The children were encouraged to think like archaeologists, deciding what we can tell about people from the pictures or objects they have left behind, and what new questions the objects leave us with. We had a superb slideshow of the real Egypt

from Mrs Coyne, and then went to Manchester Museum to see some of the mummies and objects for real. The children were allowed to handle things from 5000 years ago, and were very impressed by an x-ray of a crocodile mummy, which held a few surprises. After a picnic lunch, the children explored the rest of the museum, sketching some super fossils and live animals in the vivarium.

Back at school, the topic was finished in style with an Egyptian day, when pupils made death masks, jewelled collars, ate Egyptian food and Walked Like Egyptians along with a video of Michael Jackson. The pupils learnt a great deal about this period of History, enhanced by a lot of hands-on learning experiences.

VF AA

Pancake day

The children in Early Years and Year 1 learnt about the origin of Pancake Day before having the opportunity to weigh and mix the batter to actually make the pancakes for a pancake party. To get the children in the pancake party mood, they had a Pancake Race. Children and teachers took part but, unfortunately, none of the pancakes survived the race. Luckily, lots of extra pancakes had been made for the children to enjoy back in the classroom.

Horrible Histories

In March, Year 2 classes had an action-packed day. They went to The Lowry Theatre to see the 'Horrible Histories - Vile Victorians' in the morning. The

children and staff thoroughly enjoyed the performance and the highlight was when the children were given 3D glasses during the interval. The glasses enhanced the amazing special effects and the children sat enthralled throughout the whole show.

The fun didn't end there, for after lunch, they moved on to the Manchester Museum of Science and Industry. The children spent an hour absorbed in the Experiment area where they learnt some amazing facts about science in everyday life. They took part in puzzles, and were encouraged to see, hear, feel and smell science in action. To end the day the children were taken to the Manchester Underground Gallery and walked through a Victorian Sewer built using original bricks from a Manchester sewer of the late 1830s.

Pets at Home

Pre-School visited Pets at Home at Lyme Green, Macclesfield where they saw an assortment of animals including rabbits, hamsters, guinea pigs, lizards, snakes and fish. They were fortunate to meet the Vet, who gave them a tour of his surgery and also watched a dog have his fur washed and dried.

Camping

Pre-School had a lovely day camping in the Gingko meadow. They carried the camping equipment and set up three tents. They also made their own tent from ropes and blankets. The children were very





lucky to explore a real camper van too. The day ended with sausages cooked on the barbecue.

Tatton

To begin their topic 'On the farm', Reception children visited Tatton Park farm. There were many animals to meet including reindeer, pigs and their piglets, horses, cows, hens and their chicks, sheep and lambs. A highlight of the visit was feeding the ever-hungry goats. After a delicious picnic, the children had the opportunity to build dens and play on the adventure playground.

Summer Concert

The Infant Department enthralled a packed audience with a charming performance of *The Pied Piper*. 2CW/MB took the main roles, speaking and acting with confidence and maturity. They were magnificently supported by 2ES as mischievous rats and the rest of the Infant classes who sang and danced with enthusiasm. The choir sang superbly and the Year 2 children enjoyed receiving their special King's bear as a gift from the Infant Department as they make the transition to the Junior Department. The afternoon was a truly joyful experience.

Pirate Day

In July, Year 2 children enjoyed a leaving/Pirate party, which involved dressing up as pirates and participating in assorted activities. These included making 'pirate' cookies, puzzles and quizzes, and making fishing rods. The children had a pirate party at the end of the day.

'We do like to be beside the seaside.'

Reception children made the most of the beautiful weather when they enjoyed an afternoon of summer activities in the outside classroom. They enjoyed playing in the sand pit and the water pit; tried out newly-constructed boats of many shapes and sizes in the paddling pools and dodged the water sprinkler. To end the afternoon and to help the children cool down, they were given ice lollies.

Adam Perrott

Pupils were entertained by Adam Perrott when he shared his writing with the children who loved the storylines from his books, which feature The Odds, a family of pranksters and meddlers. There was some audience participation in his comic presentation which involved balloons filled with shaving foam and Adam Perrott also read extracts from his books. The question and answer session gave an insight into the working life of an author and the process of having a book published.

Buxton Opera House

Year 1 went to Buxton Opera House in June to see an adaptation of *Tiddler and Other Terrific Tales*, by Julia Donaldson. The tales were woven together with live music, songs, puppets and a host of colourful characters, which kept the children and staff spellbound. After the performance, the children went to the Pavilion Gardens where they enjoyed a picnic lunch before returning to school.

French Club

As usual, the academic year began with a series of French programmes

designed to help pupils who have not studied the language make quick progress in an enjoyable way.

In the Spring Term, the focus of the Club switched to our younger pupils who flocked each week to watch the next instalment of *Belle et Sebastien*. The story of a young boy and his adventures with a mountain dog in the Alps, captured the pupils' imagination so whole-heartedly, that they sometimes forgot that they were watching in French!

The Summer Term brought the return of the Boules Club, in which pupils from all four Year groups had a lot of fun improving their skills in this traditional French game. Winners from each match were recorded and came together to provide an exciting championship where a Year 4 pupil, Cara Holliday, was declared overall winner.

AMJ

Field Trip to Formby Point

In April, we visited Formby.

We had tour around the dunes from our guide, Ruth, and we each had a clipboard to fill in along the way.

We looked at different parts of the beach and spoke about the patterns of vegetation in each area: the fixed dunes have more permanent vegetation such as grasses, pine trees and moss. They are also a good habitat for moths, natterjack toads, rabbits, spiders and snails.

The coast at Formby Point is eroding very fast. Rubble from the old car park and caravan site was still on the beach. The ranger told us that they would try and get volunteers to clear it up before the summer starts.

The mobile dunes are easier to



erode away but Ruth said that the local Homebase gave them unsold Christmas trees to put next to the mobile dunes so the sand would blow against them to form a harder to erode dune. Marram grass mostly grows on the mobile dunes. However, Formby is an unusual beach, because they don't have embryo dunes at the front of the beach, only large mobile ones. We all enjoyed our day and it ended by seeing a red squirrel.

*Adam Humphreys and
Melissa Taylor (6ST)*

Bramall Hall

In December, Year 5 visited Bramall Hall in Stockport where they became Tudor ladies and gentlemen for a day. After they had been taught proper 'London manners', they were allowed to meet Sir William and Dame Dorothy Davenport, who welcomed them to the hall and invited them to join in preparations for the Yuletide feast.

In the stillroom, the goodwife taught the children about Tudor medicine and they learned how to apply goose fat to the chest in the event of a cold, sniff rose petals to prevent the spread of germs and also several rather severe remedies for toothache, none of which they were eager to try out. Pupils also enjoyed acting out a Tudor play for Sir William and tried their hand at playing a range of Tudor instruments. The resulting cacophony was not quite up to standard for the school concert though. The day

ended with the children sharing some 'jumbles' with Sir William and narrowly being put in the stocks on their way out of the hall.

NS

Jersey Sports Tour

The Infant and Junior Division tried a new venture this year and experienced a first 'overseas' Sports Tour. Thirty three Year 6 pupils joined the 5 day tour, which included Rugby and Netball coaching clinics, a tournament and afternoon and evening excursions and activities. The sports' coaching in both Netball and Rugby was an excellent standard and all developed their skills in a positive atmosphere amongst new friends. The boys were based at Jersey Rugby club and the girls at a new indoor Netball Centre: both were ideal. The children worked really hard and were commended on their attitude, behaviour and their abilities: they were a credit to King's.

On the final morning, teams competed in the 'Jersey Games', playing in a tournament format. All received medals for their participation and the girls were very proud to win their event. Excursions included the Gerald Durrell conservation zoo and an Aqua Centre: both were a great success with the children. It was an action-packed trip: our enthusiastic and energetic tourers coped brilliantly with the busy itinerary.

DCB

Outward Bound

Year 6 went to the Hollow ford Centre in Castleton for an adventure-packed weekend filled with challenging courses and team-building games.

Aisling Day

One of the things I really enjoyed was the caving. At first I didn't really want to do it but in the end, I loved it and enjoyed squeezing through the small gaps and crawling through muddy water.

Jamie Shuttleworth

When we were doing the abseiling, we were all looking very nervous, as the bridge arches were incredibly high. I was relieved I wasn't first but even when it was my turn I was extremely scared. In the end, I zoomed down so quickly that no one could see me. It was so epic!

Holly Jones

I was so scared of the caves as we arrived. As we entered it did not seem so bad but it got worse. Soon I was enjoying it. As we crawled through the small gaps and swam through a small pool, I loved it even more. I left the cave proud and not afraid.

Isaac Salisbury

I enjoyed the rafting because you had to work as a team to build the raft and then be able to float in the water.

Casey Holliday

We all worked together to make our raft to race against another team. I enjoyed cooling off in the pond after the race.

Thomas Davies

I enjoyed caving a lot and after a while I was having so much fun, I had forgotten to feel nervous. I did have to crawl some of the way and also had to wait in the dark for the instructor. The best bits were when we had to wade through knee-deep water and got it in our wellies.

Ellie Watkins

When I went on the zip wire, I was going so fast and I was too excited.

Zoë Thomas

I am sure that all of Year 6 enjoyed their trip and would love to go again.

Aisling Day

SPCT



1st XV

The efforts and achievements of the 1st XV squad this season were unrivalled: the character, courage and spirit of this superb squad will live long in the memory.

Last year's tour to Canada undoubtedly played a huge part in the team's success this year. On return to domestic duty, Jack Sadler became Captain and he proved himself to be a superb leader. He played in every game of this record-breaking season and always had the full respect of the team.

After conquering QEGS Wakefield, by 17 points to 13, and MGS, 26-15, both away, followed by an emphatic victory over Lancaster RGS by 38 points to 14, perhaps even in the early stages, the writing was on the wall for a formidable season.

Throughout the autumn, further emphatic wins followed, crushing Lymm High School, 41 - 12 and in the 1st round of the Daily Mail competition, King's defeated The Grange School 65-03, setting up a local derby clash with Sandbach School.

For many, the Sedbergh game was the highlight of the season and in front of almost 800 spectators, the 1st XV produced their most complete performance of the season. In a game of high class entertainment, both sides played attacking rugby but it was the composure and precision of the King's side that meant they came

out on top by 26 points to 19.

On the back of such a superb autumn for the 1st XV, they were duly awarded the Rugby World Team of the Month for October. Parker, Percival, Sheratte, Marsden and Ravenscroft were also selected for Cheshire U18; whilst Hale, Greer, Jackson and Thorneycroft represented Cheshire U16 and J Kenny, Ravenscroft and Sadler were also involved with the Sale Sharks U18 EPDG.

Further wins followed against Rydal-Penrhos, Nottingham High School, Adams Grammar School and Denstone College and cup wins over Sandbach, Lady Manners and Manchester Grammar School meant that the 1st XV were unbeaten as they approached the Christmas holidays, with the small matter of a much anticipated Daily Mail last 32 game away to Barnard Castle to play in the final week of term. Barnard Castle hosted the game superbly and credit must go to the Head Groundsman for getting the pitch playable after 3 or 4 days of frost and snow, and the team snatched a remarkable victory from the jaws of defeat.

The team entered the festive break with a record of played 20 and won 20, testament not only to the efforts of established players, but also to the contributions made by many of the U16 players such as Joe Hale, Harry Jackson, Archie Thorneycroft, Dan Greer, Jonny Hammill and Huw Ravenscroft.

With training sessions continuing through the Christmas holidays, the boys returned eager to make some real headway in the Daily Mail Cup and, despite the best efforts of the weather, King's finally played Wirral GS at a very windy Caldry RUFC for a place in the quarter-final. From the start, the team was always too strong and dominant for Wirral and, with the likes of J Kenny, Sadler, O Kenny and Parker all having their best games of the season, King's romped home by a staggering 31-0 margin. This was an exceptional result, away from home, in challenging weather conditions: for the first time in the school's history, King's had reached the quarter-final of the Daily Mail Cup.

Given the severity of the winter, it was not surprising that Merchant Taylor's and Stockport Grammar School fixtures were cancelled in January. Along with the cancellations and the approach of the quarter-final game in early February, it is easy to see how a thrilling 26-26 draw with Kirkham Grammar School could be overshadowed. Yet, both schools played superb rugby in a competitive atmosphere: a draw was a very fitting result as well as a providing a superb spectacle and advert for northern schools' rugby.

In February, three buses of pupils, staff, players, supporters, Old Boys and parents set off to Northampton School for Boys, amidst snow flurries and freezing winds, to embark





on the biggest game of King's rugby to date. The boys involved handled themselves impeccably, but we knew what we were up against when, after 90 seconds, top try scorer and self-professed speed machine Tom Fairclough, suffered a horrifying double fracture to his right leg in an innocuous clash with his opposite winger. The game was delayed for twenty minutes and the atmosphere in the changing room was sombre: the team was determined to secure a win for Tom but the emotional energy of such an exhausting day took its toll, so that the game ended in a 3-0 defeat.

Our last 15-a-side fixture of the season was at home to St Ambrose College and the boys put their midweek disappointment to one side and won easily in an exciting and open game of rugby by 38 points to 13. This was a fitting way to sign off a truly remarkable season: they played 24, won 22, drew 1 and lost 1, scoring 763 points and conceding only 227.

In so many ways, the efforts of these boys and the success they enjoyed might never be bettered. Obviously I hope that isn't the case and both I and all the Staff at King's will be working very hard to make sure we have another season like this in the not too distant future. King's rugby players don't know when they are beaten; they never give up; the camaraderie and spirit of these teams is what makes the rugby experience at King's, so very enjoyable and rewarding for all those involved.

Thanks must go to all those who represented King's in Canada and throughout this record-breaking season: your efforts were truly remarkable.

GAJM/JPB

2nd XV

This season was somewhat mixed, as promising displays were intermingled with those of a less impressive nature. The season began well, with good away victories at Wakefield, Manchester, Lymm and Rydal; in fact, it was the side's home form which stuttered early on, as the team was well beaten by Lancaster and, more emphatically, Sedburgh just before the October break, but registered an impressive win against Woodhouse Grove.

The half term holiday did not seem to suit the players, as none of the next three games were victories. After that, weather seriously interrupted the programme: only three more regular fixtures were played, resulting in wins against Denstone and St Ambrose, and a close defeat at the hands of Kirkham. The weather relented in February, enabling a further three fixtures to take place, all against 1st XV opposition: a drawn game against Fallibroome, a convincing defeat by Bridgewater H S and an equally resounding victory over Runshaw Academy.

The team certainly gave of its best, invariably trained positively and played with enthusiasm and gusto. The forwards worked tirelessly throughout, none more so than props Mason and Rattigan. Crummack and Boyle, the main lock pairing, carried hard and to good effect, whilst the back row, picked from Hennell, Hooley, Brown and Wood was busy and industrious. Remaining members of the pack - Butler, Nicholls and Holt - made massive contributions when not on 1st XV duties and the youngster Thorneycroft added lineout capability and gazelle-like mobility; Hanak joined the squad as the season progressed and never failed to impress.



Behind the scrum, Thomson proved a prolific try scorer at outside centre and the half back duties were shared between Robinson, Burke, Eggar and Reaney, each possessing contrasting talents and skills; the first two should be pushing for 1st XV honours somewhere in the back line next season. Crosby, at full back, improved enormously as the season progressed, putting his physicality to good use; wings Barkanyi, Brierley and latterly, Fullerton, made good progress too. Ravenscroft was also a useful asset when released from the U16 squad, while Rooney succumbed to an early season injury.

All in all, the season turned out well; whatever the result of games, the side never once capitulated and Tom Hennell won the 2nd XV end of season award, a fitting recognition of a player who always gave of his best. Such individuals make the coach's experience all the more positive.

RGD

U16

This was a mixed season on all fronts. The usual influx of players pre-season and then the loss of players during the season to the 1st and, occasionally, 2nd XV, coupled with the coldest winter for 50 years which caused many games to be cancelled, makes it clear why this was such a roller-coaster of a season. The year kicked off with a heavy defeat to QEGS Wakefield. Finlay McCance gave all, his Scottish heritage not allowing him to give up in face of overwhelming odds.

However, the team bounced back brilliantly, with close wins against Manchester GS and Lancaster RGS (17-12 and 27-19 respectively). The win against Lancaster was very pleasing indeed, in the face of adversity and, at times, unpleasantness. The team then suffered a disappointing defeat to Woodhouse Grove 3rd XV, who were unskilful but made up for that in size, eventually beating the team 20-14.

The toughest opposition of the whole season was Sedburgh: they fielded a very strong side, and King's U16 was, once again, missing a couple of the larger players. A huge effort in the first half with some brave defensive work, kept the might of the brown shirts at bay. However, the rising tackle count wore the team down and, despite some unbelievable

defensive work, it lost 41-18.

In between, the team also lost to Stonyhurst in the Preston Grasshoppers Floodlit cup. The starting XV was the strongest of the season with players such as Ravenscroft, Thorneycroft, Greer and Hale who had returned from 1st and 2nd team duty for the match. The team started strongly after Thorneycroft put it in a strong position by opening the scoring, but somehow the final score was an agonising 12-10.

The team lost narrowly to Nottingham, in a close-run match. Tension was high and Toby Bianchi, the Captain, certainly received some ear bashing from the referee as a result. The final score was a disappointing 12-8. Next up was a combination side of Adams Grammar U16/17 - a big outfit and their size and play unfortunately told, especially on Tom Key, usually a paragon of good behaviour. In the end, the 22-6 defeat was no disgrace, as many of the opposition were a year older.

Surely the best performance of the season was against Wilmslow when some imaginative rugby as well as some superb defensive work were on display. The whole side never shied away from any tackle and put their body on the line. Key, who became the established fly half, showed what a golden boot he had, especially after the try of the season as Ravenscroft flicked the ball behind his back to McCance who passed it on to Roberts to race in at the corner. Key stepped up

for the conversion from the touchline, with only two minutes left on the clock and King's 1 point down. He nailed it straight through the middle to win the match 20-19.

Weather interfered at Stonyhurst College with a cancelled match and then there was a good, closely-fought (21-18) win against Denstone College. Teamwork was beginning to pay off, as the menacing Jonny Jones, the established scrum half was showing what a good spoiler of the opposition ball he was. He put their scrum half under terrible pressure at scrum time and forced many turnovers. The pack was working well together: forages from the irrepressible Hammill were taking their toll on the opposition whilst Mantel's phenomenal tackling and sheer determination made up for any lack of size. The seven-stone monster was a dangerous force. The front row of Murphy, Salem and Feldman were starting to make their presence felt. Williams and Lucas were working well together in the engine room, winning good line out ball and making the hard yards up front. Roberts in the backs was always willing to play in any position and was constantly showing the opposition what skill he had in both his physical and verbal abilities.

Having built up a head of steam before Christmas, the team narrowly lost to a very strong Kirkham Grammar School (12-8). The weather intruded too, cancelling a couple of fixtures against Merchant Taylor's

Crosby and Stockport Grammar. The final game of the season saw the team play St Ambrose College, where it dug in very deep. With some great defensive work from Hinchcliffe, in dreadful weather conditions, the team managed to scrape out a win 8-7, with a late penalty from Roberts securing the match.

Grateful thanks go to all the coaches, especially Mr Halewood who devoted a huge amount of time over the weekends to coach and support the team.

*Toby Bianchi 11PFH and
Finlay McCance 11HLC*

U15

As far as points were concerned, this was a very successful season. However, the real gains were made in attitude and approach as a number of players emerged who were able to perform well at A team standard. This is one of the strongest group of players to emerge over recent years: as a result, expectations of the boys are high.

The season started well, with an excellent away win at QEGS Wakefield: Gurney made good defensive decisions at outside centre and the half backs, Hodgson and McClusky, pulled the string effectively to steer us to a good win. The following week saw an unsatisfactory win away at MGS: open side flanker, Lavelle, was outstanding with a tackle count that almost exceeded the rest of the forwards put together. This game revealed the collective propensity to fall off tackles and this surfaced again against RGS Lancaster. After 20 minutes, the team was three tries down and struggling to deal with their large and aggressive pack. However, a midfield turnover just before half time saw the ball moved quickly to winger Fairclough to score and Lancaster wilted. Pleasingly, the game finished with the King's forwards on top and prop Percival scoring from short range to seal the win, after an imperious place kicking display from McClusky gave a lead.

Just to make the start to the season even harder, there was a mid-week fixture with Sedbergh. In this game, Lavelle was once again outstanding, well supported by Peakman and the emergent Kenny. In the backs, Blackwell caused significant problems for the opposition with his direct running. Another good win against Lymm





HS left the team unbeaten, with good progress made.

After the long half term break, the team came back to a Daily Mail cup game, away against Caldys HS, which was narrowly lost. The team responded well to record a therapeutic 50 point win against Nottingham HS the following Saturday. From then on, a series of good wins were recorded up to Christmas. Defences improved and fitness was excellent. In the front row, Rodgers, having adapted to lose-head prop from hooker, scrummaged and carried well and Laing played solidly at hooker. In the second row, depth meant that Price, Smith, Kenny and back row Wallace, played in rotation with all having excellent games and developing well. In the backs, long term injury to McClusky and injuries to Blackwell and Lauber, forced changes. McKeever stepped in at scrum half and linked effectively with Hodgson who stepped out to fly half. Furthermore, with number eight Peakman filling the inside centre slot effectively, and normal full back Krajewski on the wing, Turner took the full back role with considerable aplomb. Initially lacking a little confidence, he became an ever-present player, with good game awareness and great balance.

After Christmas, the run of wins continued, although the weather inevitably played a part. Good victories were recorded away from home in difficult conditions against Denstone and St Ambrose, and at home against a physical Kirkham GS side. In this period, the squad rotated even more

frequently and pleasingly all players fitted in effectively, with Lumsden now also showing that he could perform at A team as a centre or winger.

U15B

The U15B team acquitted themselves well throughout the season and it was a testament to them that a number of what were thought to be B squad players at the start of the season, forced their way into A squad contention. However, this does sometimes deprive the B team of their core and the team should be commended for always trying to play attractive rugby to record some good wins. Austin and Simpson ran well and were dangerous on the wings, as was full back Dowd, who was beginning to push for A team contention at the end of the season. In the centres, Richardson ran well throughout the year and improved his defence, as did Lumsden, who captained the side effectively and developed his game to the point where he was in serious A team contention. Similarly, Soltau at scrum half, had a very good season and showed good key skills. In the forwards, Blythe battled well in the back row, as did flanker colleague Houghton, who had an unfortunate season with injuries. Barratt performed well at Number 8 and in the second row, Rowbotham, who returned to rugby this year, had a fine season. In the front row, Barlow performed well at hooker, but struggled with injury and Shanahan battled well at prop throughout the season. Thanks should also be offered here to those boys who did not want to be

in the rugby squad on a permanent basis, but were available on request on Saturdays.

Sevens

The sevens season was severely curtailed by weather this year, which was disappointing after all the preparation and hard work put in by the boys. Nevertheless, good improvements were made in skills and awareness - particularly in the case of those forwards who were relatively new to the sevens squad. The weather intervened to the point that only two tournaments were possible. In our own Myles Marshall competition, having gone unbeaten to win the group well, the team lost in extra time in the quarter finals to the eventual tournament winners. In the Solihull sevens, the team did not qualify through the group, but went on to win the plate competition having adapted well to the unexpected unavailability of winger Fairclough.

PJP/DMH/CST

U14

It was a real pleasure to work with the U14 rugby sides this season: they have developed over the past two seasons and there is much to anticipate.

The fixture list was strengthened with the addition of both Sedbergh School and Woodhouse Grove School, making it a more challenging proposition than last season. Both teams acquitted themselves exceptionally well. The U14A team enjoyed good wins against some local rivals. The team beat St. Ambrose 38 – 10,



MGS 53 – 5 and Lymm HS 36 – 0. The narrow loss against Sedbergh School 17 – 22 was one of the highlights of the season; despite losing, it was one of the most physical and mature performances from any school team I have had the privilege of refereeing.

The side finished the 15-a-side season in style, with a victory over Irish touring team Christian Brothers Cork, which rounded off a challenging, but exciting season.

The U14B team had another outstanding season under the watchful eyes of Mr Livingstone and King's head chef (and parent) Mr Martin Embley. The U14B playing record was astounding as the team achieved a 91% win ratio, which is an exceptional feat by any standards. Their only defeat came at the hands of Lancaster GS, losing narrowly 7 – 5. It was pleasing that the U14B side was so successful, boding well for the future of King's rugby.

The U14 7-a-side squad was the Plate runners-up at the Solihull school sevens, but unfortunately all of their other competitions were cancelled due to inclement weather. Across all teams, ten competitions were cancelled due to poor conditions which adversely affected the 7-a-side season in general.

Thanks must go to Mr Thomson, Mr Embley and Mr Livingstone for their continued support and hard work in coaching and managing the sides.

PMA

U13

It was another excellent season for the U13 A team. The team clocked up a 82% win rate, averaging in excess of thirty points a game through their unique style of running rugby and hard counter-rucking.

Ably captained by Will Peakman, the team maintained a majority of familiar faces from last season with a few new recruits. Cameron Redpath joined the school this year and brought some hard running and exquisite off loads to an already strong back line. There were big changes in the front row with Connor Wordley joining mid-way through Year 7 and Rob Devon gaining promotion from the B team.

The season started in similar fashion to the previous one with a heavy defeat to an excellent QEGS side. King's followed this loss with a



string of successes, which saw winger Alex Denny score 10 tries and countless kicks in the 44 -17 and 56 - 5 wins over MGS and Lancaster Grammar. The team went on to record a winning streak of seven consecutive games. The team knew its strengths and played to them; strong work from the forwards marshalled expertly by Josh 'Scooner' Burke provided plenty of ball for the slick interchanges between Redpath and Blackwell, enabling the backs to run in tries seemingly at will.

Then came the mid-season wobble: King's suffered a shock defeat to Wilmslow, losing a poor game to a team that clearly had less talent, but much more desire. This was quickly followed by a defeat to Wirral Grammar in the quarter-final of the Cheshire Cup.

Two wins against Denstone and Kirkham seemed to put the team back on track before the weather decided to shut down King's rugby for a month. Luckily, despite questionable pitch conditions, the U13s were able to play their final game of the season against a strong St Ambrose team. This turned out to be an epic encounter: King's showed real grit, chasing down every ball and tackling their hearts out. The team was behind by two scores at half time, before battling back to win 20–17 with the last kick of the game, which was a fitting end to an excellent season.

The sevens season also fell foul to the weather, with only two competitions going ahead. The squad travelled to Nottingham HS for their first taste of sevens rugby but unfortunately, King's struggled to get going against a well organized Solihull

School side. At half time, after a stern word or two, King's picked themselves up and got back into the game. With only moments to go, Solihull broke through. Alex Denny managed to chase back, tackle and subsequently won a penalty on the King's try line. Josh Burke took a quick tap penalty and with two passes, the ball went to Denny, who showed his blistering pace, running in a try under the posts from almost 100m away. The try was converted, bringing the game to 24–24.

The team followed with two comprehensive victories, against Leicester GS, 50 - 0 and Toothill 50 - 0. King's faced the hosts next; Nottingham HS: in the second half there were some outstanding performances from Tom Blackwell, Jos Collier, James Quinn and James Crummack with the final result a victory to King's at 35 - 7. In their final fixture against Warwick, who had also not lost a game, King's showed great tenacity and eventually got their reward following a flurry of passes. James Quinn broke down the left touchline showing a good turn of pace and sealed King's victory 26 - 17. Alex Denny was named player of tournament, but without the support and hard work shown by all of his team-mates, he could not have hoped to achieve this accolade.

King's then travelled to the national sevens tournament at Rosslyn Park. With the weather far from ideal, King's defeated Dulwich College 45 - 0, Arnold School 36 - 5 and the Welsh side, YsgolGyfun Cwm Rhymni 29 - 14, which placed them top of their group, with an impressive points differential of +94. As is often the case in tournament rugby, tiredness be-

came a factor: the team was defeated by an excellent Howard of Effingham School 32-7 in the knock out stages.

This season's player of the year award goes to Tom Blackwell. Tom has trained hard all season and is a real team player who this season was selected to represent 'The Lambs', the North of England Independent Schools representative team.

JSM and RJ

U13 B

Despite a slow start to the season, the team managed to finish with impressive victories over Adam GS, Denstone College and Kirkham Grammar. For the season, the team recorded six losses and four victories. Throughout the season, the skill level improved significantly within the team but it is the team spirit and camaraderie that developed and impressed most so that there is now an impressive team work ethic. Training numbers were impressive all year.

TSJ

U12

This season proved a really good challenge, despite being disjointed, with the overwhelming majority of matches played before the Christmas break. From January onwards, only two regular season matches were played, owing to the inclement weather. The opening matches of the season did not augur well, with heavy defeats being suffered at the hands of two impressive, experienced sides, Lymm and Woodhouse Grove. Yet, in the subsequent weeks, the boys failed to be downhearted, attended training sessions regularly and rebuilding confidence. Two cosy wins over Nottingham and Manchester GS were a tonic: the try of the season was in the game against MGS and was finished by Toby Moule, resulting in a 19 - 0 win.

Confidence was high and the boys crushed Adam's in the next fixture. Despite narrow defeats in January and February against Kirkham and St Ambrose, there was undoubted optimism as the Sevens tournaments began.

In the first, King's finished gallant runners-up to a robust Nottingham side but had gained valuable experience in the seven-a-side version of the game. A week later, at the Wirral tournament, the U12 VII produced some of the most accomplished play by a young King's team in recent

years. Showing great skill, composure, stamina and resilience, they finished the tournament unbeaten in six games, scoring over 150 points and conceding fewer than 30 to lift the trophy. Will Davies, Archie Phillips and Sam Buckingham showed their maturity as they controlled the games and a mention must be made of Oscar Johnson, whose pace proved invaluable with a hat-trick in the final.

The boys were a pleasure to work with being eager to learn and to develop as players. Richard Griffiths, new to the game, made massive improvements through the season: his future is bright. Will Davies looks an accomplished fly-half with good balance and a mean side step. Sam Cheetham's dedication was apparent: he consistently worked hard in practice and was always first down to help the coaches. Sion Davenport made the most significant improvements throughout the season and was also the winner of the 'design a rugby shirt' competition run jointly between Rugby and the Art Department.

Special mention must be made of captain and player of the season, Sam Higginson. An impressive, athletic back-row forward, Sam was a frequent winner of the 'man of the match' awards and always led by example, especially in those difficult early season encounters. It was most fitting that he scored the last try in the final of the Wirral Sevens tournament to bring home the silverware.

U12 B

Although many of the boys were

new to the game, they learnt quickly and soon grasped the key concepts. A great 5 - 5 result, against a strong Woodhouse Grove side, proved the perfect springboard from which to launch the season. As the team started to understand the game better, a good run of form in the middle of the season was reward with wins against Nottingham 27 - 7 and Adams 24 - 14. Stand out performances came from Freddie Sass and Harry Botham, who both carried the team well in these victories. After this good run of results, many matches after Christmas were cancelled due to weather, so the boys went through a long period without a game, leading to some disappointing results.

U12 C

There were only two games for the C team, but plenty of enthusiasm shown by all players. The key factor in these games was to focus on enjoyment and developing a better understanding of game play in a competitive environment.

The first game of the season was against QEGS Wakefield in early October and all the work in games lessons and at practice came together as the team produced a super display, winning 39 - 12. At MGS, communication and skills again allowed the team to win 32 - 10.

Congratulations to all the boys who represented the school in these games, and more importantly for enthusiastically turning up for training week-in and week-out.

SCB/JN/GBS/KS/PW



Junior Rugby

The King's U10 team began their season with a fixture against Terra Nova School. Though many were playing their first competitive game, the boys showed a great deal of endeavour throughout. Three tries were scored by fly-half, Ben Kersh, in a hard-fought contest, which resulted in a 15 - 15 draw. In the next match against The Grange School, King's was far too strong for the opponents, with the large squad of 15 players needing to be used carefully to maintain a more even contest. Six players scored tries in a resounding 55-20 win. The future looks bright with the nucleus of a strong team forming, ready for more fixtures as U11s next year.

The U11 team began the season with a tough fixture against Liverpool College and narrowly won 21-12. Against Birkenhead Prep, King's recorded the second win of the season, after a hard fought match. In the opening minutes, King's raced into a 14 - 0 lead, after tries from Charlie Ward and Thomas Davies. However, the opposition fought back well and three tries either side of half-time saw Birkenhead lead 21-14. Fortunately, the boys recognised the need to keep hold of the ball for longer periods in order to create pressure and this resulted in three further tries from Ward, Warr and Caplin to round off an excellent win against tough opponents.

King's was also involved in two closely-fought matches after the Autumn half-term. In the first fixture away against Stockport Grammar, the boys stuck to their task in difficult circumstances, with well-worked tries scored by Redpath, Ward and Payne, securing a 15 - 15 draw. This served to be an excellent warm-up for the cup match against Kirkham which followed. After an even first half, King's gradually began to grind down the opponents, who provided a stern physical test throughout: the final score was 26 - 14 to King's.

As they travelled to Merchant Taylor's School in Crosby, the U11 A team hoped to maintain their undefeated start to the season. However, they were met by an extremely skilful and athletic opposition and, after conceding four times, King's were 28 - 0 down at half-time and extremely deflated. Still, the boys came out for the second half with fierce determination and shocked their hosts with

some fine attacking rugby. A flurry of tries reduced the deficit significantly so that, by the end of the match, MTS were relieved to win 42 - 28. The B team played their first match of the season, showed great enthusiasm and endeavour, particularly in attack, and were unfortunate in conceding a late try to lose 25 - 20.

The A team fixture against The Grange School blew away the cobwebs after Christmas, with a comfortable 40 - 7 win. The B team also played their first fixture of the term and despite their best efforts were defeated 35 - 15.

In the fixture against Altrincham Prep, the A team performed well in difficult conditions, with star fly-half, Murray Redpath, scoring all four tries in a 28 - 14 win. The B team fought valiantly and were unfortunate to lose 15 - 5.

The U11s hoped to maintain their excellent form against Terra Nova School, however, in the opening few minutes they were stunned as their opponents scored twice to lead 10 - 0. This, along with the steep slope of the pitch, proved to be a stern test, so that at half-time the score was 10 - 7 to Terra Nova. With the slope and the elements in their favour, the boys played superbly in the second half, with a hat-trick from Murray Redpath and a score from Isaac Salisbury in the closing minutes sealing a comfortable win in the end.

King's finished the 12 a-side season with a tough fixture against Stockport GS in the AJIS Cup Quarter-Final. King's fought bravely against strong opposition, but were defeated 28 - 21. After conceding twice early on, the boys fought back to level the match at two tries apiece at half-time. However, in the second half Stockport dominated and despite a late score by King's, they held on for victory.

The U11 season was completed as a

squad of nine travelled to Merchant Taylors' School for the AJIS Sevens tournament. King's entered the tournament with high hopes of performing well and perhaps challenging for the main prize. Unfortunately, the boys started slowly and in the first game against Kirkham, the opposition were a little sharper so that, disappointingly, King's suffered a narrow 19 - 14 defeat. After also losing narrowly to a strong Manchester GS team, the boys were destined to finish outside the top two places in the group and, after defeating Abbeygate College 40 - 0, they entered the 'Plate' competition. From the outset it was clear that the boys were far too strong for this section of the tournament, with resounding 40 - 0, 50 - 0 and 52 - 0 wins being recorded on the way to the final. King's faced a determined Grange team in the final and after a relatively even game the final score was 21 - 21 and it was agreed that the plate would be shared.

Colours were awarded to Max Hine, Josh Green, Murray Redpath (Captain), Remy Miller and Charlie Ward.

MKW

Year 6 rugby and netball players in their Jersey Tour strip



1st XI

The season was a very enjoyable and successful one. Certainly if success is measured by the improvements made in a group of players, then this was one of the most successful seasons in recent years. All benefitted from the expert coaching of Tom Ainsworth from Bowdon HC and from Tim Pont from the Netherlands. Both put significant time and effort into improving the technical and tactical standard of all the teams.

A good cup run saw the team beat King's Chester, Sandbach and Cheadle Hulme. Although the team took a heavy defeat against a strong Altrincham side, they still qualified for the North West finals day, where two draws and a defeat were not enough to take the team beyond that stage.

The 1st XI had a very good season on the regular North West hockey circuit but, as always, the end of season festival games were very challenging. The Taunton Festival was a particularly hard weekend: nearly cancelled following heavy snow, in the end it was played in bitterly cold conditions. The team played five of the best schoolboy sides from England and Northern Ireland and King's did very well throughout, narrowly losing their final game to the tournament winners, Belfast.

It is sad to say farewell to the Year 13 players and this has been one of the most hard-working and tightest-knit groups we have had. The two Wills, Galloway and Machin, through-

out their time at King's, have been ever-present as captain and goalkeeper. They are very good players and excellent at teamwork. In a side that struggled for early success, they were stand-out players and deservedly shared the player of the season award. Jamie Winrow improved as the season progressed: he has become a good, all-round player and hopefully, will go on to play club hockey. He was voted the most improved player at the Taunton Festival, a fitting tribute from his fellows.

Matt Spandley and Alex Rees became very good defenders, Alex came to the game late but the hard work they both put in at practice developed their defensive techniques. Jamie Irving and Alex Quinlan were also late recruits but both were strong and athletic forwards, capable of upsetting defences with good positional play and attacking running. Mike Higginson was a very popular utility player: he played all over the pitch, even as a stand-in keeper when Will Machin was injured. He never gave anything less than 100% and he provided one of my personal highlights at King's, when he scored the winning goal for the then U16 side against Newcastle, to provide that year group with their first-ever win as a team. As the Year 13 players leave, the challenges and opportunities are there for the latest crop of players and with a strong Year 11 group coming through, the future looks very good for hockey at King's.

SM



U16

This was the final season as an age group side for one of the strongest hockey year groups we have had in recent years. The season was another successful one. The team lost to only two schools in the season, Rossall and Doncaster, who both went on to represent the North of England in the National finals. Over the years, King's has some fantastic battles with Rossall and the games have always been closely fought. It was Rossall who edged King's into second place in the North West finals; when both teams progressed to the North stage, it was Rossall who beat King's by a single goal, ending the team's chances of progressing to the National stages.

The side was well-captained by Callum McIlveen, who marshalled a strong defence with Tom Lynch, Ben Winrow and Ed McKee. Jake Gillson had another good year in goal, with some great saves and goal-line clearances. The midfield was dominated by Alex Cripps (who hates to lose the ball), Chris Taylor and Jordan Grocott. Up front, James Ireland and Jamie Edgerton provided the pace and James Almond-Smith ('Moses') was invariably at the head of the 'D', ready to pounce on any loose balls to slot the ball home. Goalscorers are a very valuable commodity indeed: Moses was one of the best. Jamie Edgerton and James Ireland became really good wingers as the season progressed: they will be a real handful for opposition defenders next season. JJ Goldfinch completed the quartet of 'J's' up front: JJ is a good finisher and a fine athlete. He finished the season playing some games as a goalkeeper so that it may well be that this is where JJ will find himself next season.

Callum McIlveen, Chris Taylor, Tom Lynch and Jordan Grocott went on to play for the 1st XI in the end-of-season festival at Taunton and were excellent



Hockey

against some of the best U18 teams in the country. Jordan went on to win the U16 player of the season and as the whole group move forward the future looks bright for next season's 1st XI.

SM

U15

The U15 had a mixed season. A disappointing start saw the team lose 3 - 2 to Merchant Taylors', after the team had built a 2 - 0 lead and dominated the game. James Shering picked up the Man of the Match award, whilst both Henry Strutt and Josh Towne also had a good game.

Against Newcastle-under-Lyme, the team again started very positively, passing the ball around well whilst James Shering controlled the midfield along with Robin Laughton. James Shering scored after the break to bring the score to 2 - 0 before poor marking let the home side sneak one in. Robin Laughton got MOTM, but there were also good performances for Oliver Andrews and Oliver Papatimitriou.

At Bolton, King's moved the ball around well, to secure a deserved 3 - 1 win.

Joe Machin, Josh Towne and Will Harris had good games. A tough trip

to Caldly followed and the team was well-beaten at 6 - 0, though Dan Allmand-Smith had a very good game.

After two games lost to bad weather, the team welcomed Newcastle for the return fixture. We dominated possession and MOTM Robin was the first to find the back of the net, then put away three more chances to bring the game to 4 - 0. We kept pressing and after goals from Josh, James, Ashley Barrett and yet again Robin, who managed to bag 5, the game ended 8 - 0, a most pleasing result.

A good but unsuccessful trip to Rossall saw the team lose narrowly to Rossall and the Lakelanders, both very strong sides. The two Harrys, Booton and Meadows, had excellent games and picked up the Man of the Match awards.

For the Rydal fixture, bad weather in Macclesfield meant that some players were unable to make the meet-time but the sun shone on the Welsh coast and, after enlisting the help of some of the U14s who had already played that morning, King's finished with a deserved 4 - 2 victory.

However, the highlight of the season, was beating Rossall 4 - 0. This was a fantastic team performance, with everyone playing extremely well. The midfield players were especially solid with Robin, James and Oliver

Macfadyen containing any Rossall attacks. After a well-worked attack, we came away with a short corner, with Josh converting top left. The team didn't let the intensity slip, getting the ball easily up to MOTM Gregg Booker who, after a ball crossed in, finished it majestically in the bottom corner from top right D. After a classic half-time team talk from Mr Kennedy, we were all raring to go. We put the pressure on, overloading their D but having shot after shot saved, until we managed to feed Gregg the ball, which he finished in an almost-identical manner to his first goal. Full of confidence we then held out for the win.

A draw against St Anselm's followed, with Thomas Andresen the pick of the players, and another good game for Harry Meadows. Overall, it was a fantastic performance, containing team work, ball speed, possession and slick finishing. Knowing that the coaches and parents were proud, we were looking forward to next season, when, hopefully, we can have some success in the cup.

Our special thanks must go to Tim and Tom, for making training enjoyable, and to Mr Kennedy and Mr Moores, for all the hard work they put into organising our games.

Joshua Towne 10 GAJM



1st XI

At the outset, King's 1st XI had not been expected to have a particularly successful season, with few players left from last year's side. In the event, they significantly 'over-achieved', recording no fewer than ten victories with only three losses in sixteen full games, with some notable scalps under their belts. Manchester GS, Birkenhead, Stockport GS, King's Chester, and the very powerful Bolton, all fell to King's, whose accurate bowling and gritty batting all down the order, regularly overcame sides whose star players had been expected to dominate. Captain Ben Marsden led from the front, scoring a total of 773 runs for the season, at an average of over 55 per innings. He was also very instrumental in generating a marvellous team spirit, a major strength of the side. Finlay McCance, Adam Siddall and Will Hodgson were the other main run-scorers, though others also chipped in, often vitally, at different times. Young leg-spinner Hodgson was top wicket-taker with 36, and he was perhaps unlucky not to have been selected for North of England Schools in their end-of-term

fixtures. Siddall, Henry Holden, Calum McIlveen, Ben Winrow and Tom Key also took significant numbers of wickets.

This year's annual festival took place at Barnard Castle in Durham, and saw King's win three out of three games, for only the fifth time in the festival's forty-year history. In the first game, v Edinburgh Academy, big runs by Marsden [80] and McCance [98] enabled King's to amass 285 - 5 in their 50 overs, and the wickets were shared around as Edinburgh fought well, to reach 224 in reply. Then, against Rossall, a similar game resulted in an even wider winning margin - King's 254 - 7, with Marsden 62 and Siddall 93; Rossall 88.

The hosts had also won their first two games, so that the third day saw a genuine 'final'. King's struggled with the bat to reach only 122, with 20s from Siddall, Jamie Winrow and McIlveen providing the majority of the runs. Four wickets from Hodgson, and a hat-trick from Holden, then bowled out Barnard Castle for just 90, however, so that King's emerged undisputed festival winners.

The final match, against a strong Old Boys' side, on the hottest day

of the season, was an excellently-contested one. Captain Tom Foreman top scored for the Old Boys with 54, but contributions all down the order enabled them to declare at 224 - 7. King's then made a brave effort, faced by top County League spinner Jimmy Lomas in particular, and 44 from Siddall, and 57 from Jamie Winrow - his first 1st XI half-century in his final innings - enabled them to stay in with a chance almost until the end. Surprise package, Guy Mason, however, caused great consternation with 6 - 24 from a superb 10 - over spell, and the School just managed to hang on for a draw on 201 - 8.

SM

U15

It's been an up and down season for the U15s, playing 10 games, winning 4 and losing 6.

Our first game of the season was against King's Chester, who did well with the bat in the first innings, scoring 197 from 30 overs: unfortunately we were lacking form and nobody scored any noticeable runs. Next we played Stockport away, when nobody stayed at the crease long enough. We



played Cheadle Hulme the week after. This was a different story regarding the bat, with Stew Gurney, Will Dowd, Harry Blackwell and Joe Turner all scoring in the high 30s/low 40s, so we had a respectable total of 215 from 30 overs to defend. The bowlers didn't disappoint and the game was won comfortably.

Next was a mid-week game against St Anselm's. We lost the toss and were sent out to field. Matt Salt had an excellent spell bowling 4 overs for 14 runs and taking 3 wickets. The opposition only scored 83 and the runs were knocked off quickly when Joe Turner scored a quick 34 to finish the game and enable us to win. MGS away was next, which was always going to be one of the harder fixtures and with all due respect to them they scored 209 in their 35 overs. Tom Anderson, taking 2 wickets on his debut, was definitely the highlight of the game.

We met Stockport again a few weeks later: this time it was a completely different story. Stockport batted first and scored a total of 118 from 20 overs. Through some good batting from Stew Gurney, scoring 29, and Harry Blackwell, scoring 36, the game went right down to the last ball of the innings but, unfortunately, we just came short, losing by 3 runs in a game that could easily have gone either way.

Birkenhead was a game where each department of the team worked well and an all-round team effort was rewarded with a win. Stew Gurney batted very well in his first innings, scoring 55 not out, helping score a respectable total of 127. In the second innings, Jack Rodgers bowled 5 overs for 19 runs, taking 2 wickets. Will Dowd took 3 wickets from his 5 for 19 runs and Tom Anderson bowled 3 overs, taking 3 wickets for 15 runs. A joint effort meant the game was won comfortably.

We continued our winning ways by defeating St Ambrose in a high scoring encounter. Will Dowd scored 57 in a total of 212-7, whilst Matt Salt and Jack Rodgers picked up two wickets in the St Ambrose reply.

Bolton was another close fixture. We batted first and scored 143 with Harry Blackwell and Stew Gurney scoring 46 and 47 with Joshua Towne coming in at the end to score a quick 21. In the bowling department, Jack Rodgers took 2 wickets for 27 runs from 4 overs.

Our last game of the season was

played against Merchant Taylors'. We bowled first and Joe Turner was the stand-out bowler, bowling 5 overs for 26 runs and taking 3 wickets. Unfortunately we couldn't score enough runs to win the game but congratulations go to Josh Towne for scoring 29. The season had its positives and negatives but we all developed our game and became better cricketers.

Harry Blackwell 10PA

U14

The U14 XI had a successful season, with multiple wins against strong sides. The season started with a narrow loss against King's Chester, but quickly improved and the team enjoyed a great win against the Grange, restricting them to just 66 runs, with some good batting performances from Sam Bryning and Dan Crosby, both getting into the 30s. Harry Broughton developed his Captaincy skills throughout the season and was a confident and knowledgeable leader, whilst also contributing much with both bat and ball.

The team followed up this win with an excellent performance against Stockport GS, bowling them out for 93 before knocking them off with 7 wickets in hand. Dan Crosby put in another good performance, this time reaching 51.

One of the team's most convincing wins was against Cheadle Hulme School, scoring 195 for 4 wickets then bowling them out for just 74. Harry Broughton put on an excellent batting performance, reaching a top class score of 98, and good bowling performances came from all 7 bowlers.

King's continued their good performances and began the Cheshire Cup well, defeating Sandbach in the opening round. This took them straight through to the Quarter Final of the Cheshire Cup, where they faced Stockport GS once again. Again, the squad put on a good bowling performance, James Hodges being the standout with 4 wickets. The batting was one of the best performances of the season, as Harry Broughton once again led the way, getting 53: the team won with an over to spare and with 7 wickets in hand.

Toddy Leddy with the bat, Ollie Quinn behind the stumps and Zach Howdle with the ball, all made huge contributions to the success of the side throughout the season and must be applauded for their efforts.

One of the first disappointments for the team came at Birkenhead School, when they were bowled out for just 58. Despite the best efforts of leg spinner Paul Roberts, who picked up 3 wickets, Birkenhead just about reached the total but lost 9 wickets in the process!

A good midweek win in a low scoring affair against St Ambrose, meant that the boys went into the Cheshire Cup semi-final against Altrincham GS full of confidence. Sadly, the team underperformed with the bat and in their 25 overs could only reach 109. Altrincham reached the target with an over to spare and 2 wickets in hand: whilst the defeat was disappointing, the strongest side won and they rightly deserved their place in the final.

The season ended with a fantastic win against Merchant Taylors', where some key players, including the captain, were missing. It was a great opportunity for some other players to grab the headlines and the Bryning brothers did exactly that. 47 runs came from the slashing willow of the effervescent Sam Bryning and the team posted a good total of 107 for 4. Sam has been a rock at the top of the order and he has suited the role of opener brilliantly. King's was more than capable of defending this total, with Josh Bryning making a massive contribution with his right arm medium pace, tearing apart the tail end, taking 3 wickets and an opportunity of a hat-trick.

It has to be said that 2013 was a good season for the U14s, with all the players contributing to what was an enjoyable summer of cricket: hopefully many will become King's 1st XI cricketers over the course of time.

Harry Broughton richly deserved the batter of the year award, whilst Paul Roberts was outstanding with his leg spin and is the bowler of the year.

It has been an absolute pleasure to coach and work with the boys this season, they have been hard working, polite, helpful and very keen to do well for the school.

GAJM/SCB

U13

A large squad of nearly forty boys turned up to the nets most Tuesday evenings, making selection for A and B teams very difficult. They all showed great enthusiasm and enjoyed themselves. This was a good

season, with only two games cancelled due to weather. Other games were played in mixed conditions. The A team went on to play ten games and the B team played four, plus a friendly 'England v Australia' game to get everyone involved.

The A team had very good wins against King's Chester, St Ambrose, the Grange and Merchant Taylors'. The Grange game was the first round of the cup which King's won but Altrincham in the second round proved too strong.

The A team was very well led by Owen Jones who improved his captaincy as well as being leading batsman. His fielding was also excellent, particularly on the last game of the season. Joss Collier and Sammy Chong usually opened the batting. Both were susceptible to being caught but Joss scored 174 runs, becoming second highest scorer. Owen Jones coming in at number three, was top scorer with 191 runs, at an average of 24. Jack Willcock and Cameron MacKinnon, Max Turner and Ben Turner were a pleasing middle order, scoring 350 runs between them. The later order batsmen, Joe Moores, Cameron Redpath and Alex Denny also contributed.

The best bowler was Will Peakman: he looked to be a promising and threatening opening bowler. Owen Jones, Joe Moores, Jack Wilcock and Kieran Manoharan took it in turns to bowl, with a degree of success. A number of other players - Josh Burke, Ben Robinson, Tom Blackwell - played at some stage during the season. The B team made very good progress and the strength of the squad augurs well for next season. The team was usually composed of Hopwood, Robinson, Barker, Hunt, Rands, Houghton, Prior, Burke, Bailey and Fray.

CJM

U12 A

The U12 A team began their cricketing careers in the Senior Division in a very promising manner. They lost only one of their Saturday matches, to a very strong MGS side, and won the rest in some style. They were a friendly, sociable and cheery group of boys, who displayed a great deal of obvious talent. Their development through the season was remarkable and spoke volumes about their quest for knowledge, their ability to listen and to put advice into practice.

Archie Phillips took to his role as Captain very well. He led by example and set high standards with his wicket keeping. Sam Crosby was an attacking opening batsman who also bowled some useful left arm seam, when required. Sam Buckingham started to show 'game awareness' being a thoughtful player who read the game well. He had some outstanding shots and was a very clever bowler. Charlie Toms enjoyed batting, had a good array of shots and was an excellent opening bowler. Sam Cheetham crackled with ideas and infectious enthusiasm. He opened the attack to good effect. Will Davies grew from a player lacking a little in confidence, to become a classy pace bowler with hostile intent. Charlie Fogg took the adage, 'Practice well and you'll play well' very much to heart and his diligent approach paid dividends, with some fine performances.

George Connolly was another player who was 'game aware'. He recognised situations quickly and was always ready to react, as well as being an excellent spin bowler. Angus Thompson was one of the more consistent – if not the most consistent – of the bowlers and looked set to develop into a fine, all-round player. Louis Gruber was the epitome of the phrase 'team player' and no job was too big or small for Louis: he bowled tight overs, scored useful runs and took difficult catches with great aplomb. Tom Carter was a thoughtful player with some fine shots and accurate bowling; he also took some fine catches in the outfield. Ferguson Roylance only played a couple of games for the A team but in that time

he proved himself to be more than capable with both bat and ball.

CFS

Junior Cricket

The U9 cricketers began their school career with two games of Kwik Cricket against Upton Priory School. Both teams played with great enthusiasm, with the B team winning their match by a narrow margin. Unfortunately, the A team faced a more experienced team with several powerful players and were comfortably beaten. Nevertheless, the experience will stand them in good stead as they further their skills in Year 5.

The U10s began with early season defeats against Stockport GS and then travelled to Bury GS shortly before half-term. King's did well to post a competitive score of 264, after starting on 200, with Chong, Kersh and Davies impressing. In reply, the opposition was pegged back by some tight bowling in the opening overs. However, the failure to take wickets ultimately cost King's the match, despite the late efforts of Rajendran, as Bury surpassed King's score to reach 266 and a narrow victory by a mere 2 runs. In the final match of the season, King's travelled to face Birkenhead School, but unfortunately had to settle for two games of Kwik Cricket, due to the weather conditions. Both schools mixed up their two teams, so that a mini-tournament could take place, with one comfortable win and three narrow defeats for King's being recorded by overall. Congratulations to Joey Chong, who was selected for



Cricket

the Cheshire U11 cricket squad, a particularly impressive achievement as a Year 5 pupil.

King's U11s began their season with a pairs game against Macclesfield Cricket Club. This proved to be an excellent start to the season, with all 10 players having an equal opportunity to bat and bowl. The match was evenly contested, with the scores level going into the final over of the King's innings. Fortunately, the last pair (Nico Caplin and Oliver Payne) managed to hold their nerve to ease the team past the Macclesfield score for a narrow victory.

The first competitive game was an away trip to Bolton School, with the A Team contesting the 1st Round of the AJIS Cup. After the hosts had elected to bat first, they were immediately under pressure, with opening bowlers Miller and Carman giving very few loose deliveries. Regular wickets continued to fall and the innings ended in the 17th over with only 40 runs on the scoreboard. This was well-below par on a small outfield and King's needed only 10 overs to pass Bolton's total for the loss of only one wicket. The B team played their first pairs

game, with each batting team starting on 200 runs. After a closely-fought contest, Bolton were the winners by 2 runs.

King's performed extremely well to win the next fixtures against Birkenhead. In the A team game, all 10 outfield players bowled two overs apiece and restricted their visitors to a below-par score of 75. In reply, King's cruised to victory with more than 5 overs to spare. In the B team game, King's bowled with great consistency throughout the innings and were also comfortable winners, scoring 290 to Birkenhead's 270.

King's faced Manchester GS in the Quarter-Final of the AJIS Cup, but were eliminated in a thrilling game. Manchester did well to post a challenging total of 85 from their allotted 20 overs, although a slightly wayward bowling performance from King's proved to be costly at the end of the match. In reply, King's started steadily and, midway through the innings, were in contention to reach the 86 runs required for victory. Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of Davies (*25), Chong (19) and the middle-order batsmen, the boys fell

10 runs short.

The highlight of the term was the Reeman Sixes tournament, held at Stockport GS. In this format of the game, each of the five outfield players were required to bowl one over each, with accuracy even more important than usual, due to having only four fielders. The boys began with a tied match against Manchester and followed with comprehensive wins against Cheadle Hulme and Birkenhead, to reach the final. Unfortunately, in the final King's faced a determined Bolton team, with one outstanding opposing batsman proving to be the difference between the two sides, as King's was defeated by 18 runs. However, King's bowled and fielded with great discipline throughout the day, effecting some magnificent catches and run-outs in the process. When batting, Remy Miller and Joey Chong led from the front, scoring 70 and 63 runs respectively in the 4 matches. Cricket colours were awarded to Remy Miller, Murray Redpath, Thomas Davies and George Muirhead.

MKW/NB



Athletics and Cross Country

Boys

This was a fine season for athletics in terms of both weather and results. King's hosted two early events, one for track and the other for field events. The Relays meeting was a great success, with King's finishing a creditable 3rd out of 8 schools. The Field Events meeting was held against Sandbach: the Year 9 team won whilst Years 7 and 8 teams finished 2nd.

King's entered the English Schools' Cup with mixed success. The Inter Team (Years 9 and 10) was expected to do very well, but did not qualify for the second round. The Junior Team (Years 7 and 8), on the other hand, performed well in the 1st Round, scoring a creditable 293 points, qualifying for the 2nd Round. With a slightly rearranged team and better weather conditions, the Team was outstanding. The athletes finished 1st or 2nd in almost all the track events and continued this form into the field. As a result, King's scored an amazing 412 points (119 point better than the previous completion) winning the event quite easily. This score put them 4th best in the North West Region.

The highest individual scorer was James Quinn with 40 points, with Joe Moores and Cameron Redpath each scoring 39 points.

In the Macclesfield and District

Championships the Inters (Year 10) were 1st, the Juniors (Years 8 and 9) 2nd, along with the Minors (Year 7). As a result, six from each team represented the District at the County Championships. Athletes finishing in the top two positions were selected to represent the County, in an Inter-County meeting. Having won the Junior triple jump, Tim Phillips competed in the Mason Trophy against nine other counties for Cheshire. Once again he achieved a personal best and finished 2nd in a very high standard meeting. Three Year 7 athletes ran for Cheshire against Merseyside; these were Oscar Johnson, who won the High Jump, along with Charlie Toms and George Bryson-Sharples.

King's hosted the Track League this year, against MGS, SGS and Bramhall HS. We won both the Year 8 and 10 age groups and were 2nd in both the Year 7 and 9 age groups. As a result, King's won the trophy.

The season finished with a triangular Track and Field meeting against CHS and SGS. Once again, the Year 10 and 7 teams won, with the Year 8 and 9 finishing 2nd so that King's won the Boys' overall competition.

The following represented King's for athletics:

Year 7 – George Bryson-Sharples; Richard Griffiths; Sam Higginson; Oscar Johnson; Archie Phillips; Charlie Toms and Harry Wheelton

Year 8 – George Barker; Milo Bar-

ton, James Crummack; Alex Denny; Will Jones; James Jordan; Joe Moores; Will Peakman; James Quinn, Cameron Redpath; James Simmonds; Ollie Stevenson and Alex Welch

Year 9 – Tom Botham; Sam Brindle; Finlay Calder; Alex Galbraith; Freddie Hayward; Tom Higginson; Mike Jones; Elliot Keen; Todd Leddy; Robert Massey; Tim Phillips, Toby Sayle; Will Thomson; Peter Thorp

Year 10 – Ed Austin; Will Barratt; Harry Blackwell; Gregg Booker; Will Fairclough; Brendan Jacot; Will Johnson; Alex Krajewski; Hary Lumsden; Kieran McKeever; Harry Meadows; Matt Peakman; Jack Rodgers; Jack Simpson and Ed Thompson

DTB

Junior Athletics

King's Junior athletes enjoyed an extremely successful year and celebrated numerous medal-winning performances at the big Championship events of the Athletics year.

The weather threatened to spoil the early part of the season, yet athletes trained hard and, despite missing warm-up events, still managed to produce excellent results on the big stage.

Sports Day kick-started the competitive season and was a wonderful festival of mass participation and friendly House rivalry. Capesthorpe was the eventual winner, with Gawsorth coming a close second: the



Other Sport

abundance of athletic talent from all Houses was clearly in evidence however, and was a good indicator of things to come.

The AJIS event in Wigan produced an unprecedented medal haul. It was a stunning team performance and extremely pleasing to see so many of our athletes perform to the best of their ability. Making finals is always considered to be an achievement and securing any medal a rare and impressive result. This year, however, King's athletes won two relay team and two individual Golds, a Silver, three individual Bronzes and a team relay Bronze, making this a truly exceptional occasion! The day was also made very special by the incredible achievement of securing three AJIS Championship records: Anna Mounteney won Gold in the Year 6 150m sprint final in a time of 21.3 seconds and Ben Kersh threw a cricket ball an impressive 46.29m: both made it into the record books. The Year 5 Boys' relay team also clocked up a Championship best in the 4x100m relay, with a time of 60.4 seconds. The successful team of Charlie Boddy, William Davies, Ben Kersh and Sam Worthington should be extremely proud of this achievement.

The Macclesfield and District Athletics Championships provided another impressive evening of top athletic performances. Athletes competed with flair and determination to perform very successfully on the track and in the field, winning in all team categories at the championships. This is predominantly a Year 6 event but emerging young athletes Isabel Moores and Sam Danson, from Year 4 and Sam Worthinton from Year 5, all secured Gold in their sprint finals, adding valuable points. Other Gold medal performances came from Charlie Ward, Anna Mounteney and both the Boys' and Girls' 4x100m relay teams.

In addition to this team excellence, Anna Mounteney must be congratulated, for establishing a new Championship record with a time of 21.05 seconds in the 150m. She emerged as an extremely talented athlete and her speed is breathtaking!

Well done to all our 'awesome athletes' on a stunning year.

Thanks to our proud athletics Captains, Oliver Payne and Anna Mounteney for their commitment and inspiring performances this season. Athletics Colours were awarded to: C

Ward, M Redpath, O Payne, N Caplin, A Mounteney, S Donatien, S Milner, S Eastgate and F Sawyer.

DCB

Cross Country

The season started with the English Schools' Cross Country Cup. The Inter team (Year 10 and Year 9) ran very well in the first round, held in Crewe, finishing 2nd and so qualified for the Second Round. This was the West Central Region and was held at Walton Hall Gardens, Warrington. Here most of the boys found the competition too strong, although Harry Lumsden finished 13th and Gregg Booker 14th, the former being King's first counter in both rounds. Unfortunately, King's were 5th in the team competition and so did not progress through to the Finals.

The Junior team (Year 8 and Year 7) ran superbly well in both rounds, only scoring 20 points in the first round and 25 points in the second round for the team of four counting runners. As a result, King's won both rounds and qualified for the National Final, held at Canon Slade School, Bolton. We had hoped to continue our good form and were looking for a top six finish. Unfortunately, conditions were not suitable for our small and light team and as a result it finished equal 17th. Although this was a big disappointment, credit must be given to the six athletes who performed so well and made it through to a National Final (which is for the top 24 teams from the 519 entered). The team was: George Barker; Alex Fray; Archie Phillips; James Quinn; Cameron Redpath and Ollie Stevenson.

This team was entered in the Macclesfield and District Championships against the Year 9 runners. Once again, they all ran extremely well and



won the event, with four boys being selected to run at the County Championships. Unfortunately, owing to other commitments, only George Barker competed. He was King's first counter throughout the season and thoroughly deserved to be selected to run for Cheshire in an Inter-County meeting.

King's also entered both a Year 7 and Year 10 team in the District Championships. Both teams finished 2nd, with Archie Phillips winning the Year 7 race. Dan Batt and James Hudson (Year 7) and Ed Thompson (Year 10) competed in the County Championships.

Boys who competed during the season: *Year 7* Dan Batt; Sam Buckingham; James Hudson; Oscar Johnson; Archie Phillips. *Year 8* George Barker; Alex Fray; James Quinn, Cameron Redpath; Ollie Stevenson. *Year 9* Rhys Bower. *Year 10* Gregg Booker; Harry Lumsden; James Shering; Jack Simpson; Ed Thompson. *Year 11* Dougie Naismith.

DTB

Junior Cross Country

King's Junior Cross Country runners enjoyed another successful season and many showed great dedication to regular Wednesday training sessions throughout the season.

The Macclesfield and District race series gave runners an opportunity to compete against other schools and King's teams performed consistently well throughout the Autumn and Spring terms. Runners who regularly secured top 10 positions were William Davies, Jimmy Foxton, Charlie Ward and Murray Redpath in the Year 5/6 Boys' event and Jodie Foxton and Louisa Boden in the Year 5/6 Girls' event. On Championship Day in March, three teams secured team Bronze medals and congratulations should go to our Year 5/6 Boys' and Girls' and our Year 4 Girls' teams.

The AJIS event was unfortunately postponed from a flooded October date to a freezing January one! Outstanding individual performances came from Susie Moores, who narrowly missed out on Bronze with a 4th place in the Year 5 Girls' event, and from Murray Redpath who secured a top 10 finish for the Year 6 Boys' race.

House Cross Country races took place in the Spring Term and were very closely contested. Individual year group winners for both the boys' and

the girls' races were: Albert Bradshaw and Lily Cook, Year 3; William Worswick and Isabel Moores, Year 4; William Davies and Susie Moores, Year 5; Murray Redpath and Anna Mounateny, Year 6. All Houses were represented by these runners but Gaws-worth became House Cross Country Champions.

Thanks to our Cross Country Captains: Louisa Boden and Charlie Ward.

Colours were awarded to: Murray Redpath, Charlie Ward, Jodie Foxton and Louisa Boden.

DCB

Biathlon

Changes are afoot in the world of Schools' Biathlon. Due to the ever-increasing enthusiasm for this two-disciplined event, qualification procedures are constantly being refined.

This year, eleven keen and enthusiastic girls from Years 7 to 11 were successfully entered for inclusion onto the North of England rankings list, for selection for one of the National Semi-Finals. Unfortunately, the qualification level was so high, that only our elite performers, sisters Rebecca and Katie Hughes, made it through to the semi-finals and subsequently, deservedly, to the National Championships, where they confirmed again that they are in the top echelons of their sport.

After all achievements world-wide had been collated, Katie was awarded the Bronze medal for her 3rd place in the World U14 group and Rebecca was placed 5th in the U16 group.

The girls' undisputed dedication to both swimming and running is obviously paying dividends. They are great ambassadors for King's, as well as being wonderful role models for other female athletes.

DMB

Cheerleading

The National Schools' Cheerleading Championships were held in June at the Manchester Velodrome. There were more than 3000 competitors and the standard was exceptionally high. Yet, with over 110 pupils from the Girls' Division competing, the day was a great success for King's. The teams pulled through the ranks with outstanding performances, completing skills which other schools are yet to achieve. The girls were confident and consistent, whilst their routines were dynamic and entertaining.

King's Simbas, Cats, Cubs and Lions

won four 1st places, yielding them four National titles, whilst King's Kittens (Year 7) took 2nd place. They beat the greatest number of teams as they competed in the largest category.

We are very proud of the girls and their outstanding work, and very grateful to all the parents, staff and Sixth Form who gave their time to help on the day.

The captains and vice captains were:

Year 7 (Kittens) Captain Olivia Moores; VCs Izzy Stevens, Jess Krajewski

Year 8 (Cats) Captain Sophie Jackson; VCs Mollie Gallagher, Tilly Stott

Year 9 (Cubs) Captain Fiona Cornish; VC Ellie Holder

Year 7 - 9 (Simbas) Captain Olivia Hamblyn

Years 7 - 11 (Lions Allstars) Captain Rowena Moores; Cheer Prefect Beth Burrows

Rowena Moores has been selected to be the Cheerleading Prefect for 2013 - 2014.

RB

Junior Football

King's U11 team began the season in promising fashion, after winning the Macclesfield Primary Schools' Football Tournament for the second year in succession. After early wins over Upton Priory 2 - 0 and Hollinhey 5 - 0, together with two draws, King's qualified from their pool in 2nd place and faced St John's in the semi-final. However, this proved to be more comfortable than anticipated, as King's emerged as 5 - 0 victors. In the final against St Alban's, both teams

were very evenly matched and at 0 - 0, the match was forced into extra-time. After an early goal for the opposition, all hopes of retaining the trophy seemed to be fading. However, with 20 seconds remaining, Captain Remy Miller struck a fierce shot from the edge of the penalty area to equalise, forcing the match into a penalty shoot-out. Fortunately, King's held their nerve in this tense situation, with both Remy Miller and Thomas Davies scoring resulting in a 2 - 1 win.

King's hosted its annual U11 tournament which was blessed with glorious sunshine. In the group stage, the boys performed extremely well and physically dominated each of their opponents. With 2 - 0 wins against Bury, Altrincham and Bolton, King's strode confidently into the semi-finals. This proved to be a very even match against King's Chester, with both teams having opportunities to score. However, at 0 - 0 the match headed into extra-time. Mid-way through this single period of 7 minutes, a goalmouth scramble resulted in Thomas Davies smashing the ball into the back of the net from close range to score the 'Golden Goal' amidst wild jubilation! In the final, King's faced Altrincham Prep whom the boys had already defeated 2 - 0 in an earlier match. Nevertheless, their opponents once again proved to be a very good passing team and scored early in the second half to go 1 - 0 ahead. Despite the best efforts of the King's players, they were unable to force the equaliser and had to settle for Runners-Up medals this year.

King's began the Macclesfield Primary Schools' season with two



Other Sport

wins over Upton Priory. In the A team match, King's opened the scoring with a Griff Roberts' strike after only 25 seconds, but were then forced to defend for much of the first half and Upton equalised shortly before half-time. However, in the second half, King's began to pass the ball much more effectively and sealed a comfortable victory with three further strikes to win 4 - 1. The B team showed much endeavour throughout their match and deserved to score more than the solitary goal from Adam Humphreys.

In the second league match of the season against Prestbury, the A team was beaten 1 - 0, despite enjoying much of the possession and territory throughout the match. After King's squandered several chances, the opposition broke away in the last minute and scored a goal to record a narrow win. The B team played in a very even match, with both teams having chances to score. In the last few minutes, King's scored a well-taken goal by James Warr, after good work from Nico Caplin, to take all 3 points.

In the final league match of the term, King's hosted St Alban's. The A team game proved to be a very exciting contest, with both teams very evenly matched. After conceding an early goal, the boys fought back to score twice before half-time. Unfortunately, after the opposition scored a leveller, King's could not force the winning goal, despite their best efforts. King's B team performed extremely well, recording their third successive win, to maintain their position at the top of the league. Star striker, Nico Caplin, scored a memorable hat-trick.

After Christmas, both teams faced the same local opposition in the reverse fixtures. Unfortunately, the A team narrowly missed out on winning the league title. However, the B team continued their fine performances, managing to win all of their matches and therefore secured the league title by a comfortable margin.

In the Spring Term, the U11 A team represented the Macclesfield District in the Cheshire Football Finals, having won the local tournament at the beginning of the year. Disappointingly, King's failed to find their best form in the opening two matches, losing 1 - 0 and 2 - 0 respectively, which scuppered any hopes of qualifying for the knockout stages. More positively, the boys performed a great deal better in

their last two matches and they were unfortunate not to win both games. Nevertheless, this was a good experience, as they were playing against the very best teams in the county.

The season finished on a high note in mid-May, as the U11 team rounded off their season with a fine win in the Reliance Sevens tournament. In late February, in a qualifying round, King's progressed after topping their group, which included Puss Bank, Whirley, Dean Valley and Rainow. In the games held at Hollinhey Primary School, King's faced Prestbury, which proved to be a fiercely contested match. After taking a stranglehold on the game in the second half, King's was rewarded after a powerful shot from Thomas Davies rebounded into the path of Charlie Ward, who slotted the ball into the corner of the net. With only two minutes remaining, this proved to be the winning goal in a 1 - 0 win. In the final, the boys faced a strong Gawsworth team. However, King's dominated, creating several goal-scoring chances, whilst remaining solid in defence. Goals from Thomas Davies (2) and Charlie Ward resulted in a comfortable 3 - 0 win.

Junior Football Colours were awarded to: Harry Brough, Thomas Davies, Remy Miller (Capt), Oliver Payne, Murray Redpath, Griff Roberts, Isaac Salisbury, Charlie Ward and James Warr.

The U10 A team experienced a mixed season, with a narrow 1 - 0 victory over The Grange, together with narrow defeats against Stockport GS and Birkenhead Prep. The most promising results were produced against strong opposition though, with a fantastic 5 - 4 victory being recorded over Bolton School and a compelling 0 - 0 draw away against King's Chester. King's hosted the annual AJIS U10 Football Festival for the second year in succession. The A team was not at its best and was defeated in three of the matches, albeit by a narrow margin in each case. The B team also featured in this festival, after replacing Westholme School. They faced the daunting task of being up against A teams from Liverpool College, Abbeygate College, The Grange and Oldham Hulme. Despite this, the boys performed with enthusiasm and courage and were delighted to win 1 - 0 against Abbeygate. Unfortunately, they suffered comfortable defeats in the other three matches.

The U9s had their first taste of competitive football at the AJIS Football Festival and performed with great enthusiasm throughout. The squad of 8 boys played 7 matches in total and were rotated throughout the morning to give them an opportunity to play in different positions. Excellent wins were recorded against The



Grange and Birkenhead Prep, with a further two matches being drawn. This bodes well for next season, when the boys will play more fixtures as U10s.

MW/ST/NB

Netball

U15

The U15s had a spectacular season crammed with multiple medals and trophies. Year 10 girls gave their continued commitment throughout the winter and this showed in a plethora of achievements. The first highlight of the season was the Stonyhurst Tournament. We had numerous triumphs over other teams, until we met Cheadle Hulme, who stole a draw, just as the whistle blew for full time. Unfortunately, we were pipped at the post by Cheadle Hulme on goal difference, so team took 2nd place. However, this did not dampen spirits, as we'd had a great day out.

The second most significant moment of the season, was the Cheshire County Tournament. The weather conditions were clear but cold. We were victorious, apart from one game against Fallibroome, so we were runners-up again. However, in the Macclesfield District Netball League we did not settle for second. We had been undefeated in the league matches, however we had one game to go: Fallibroome. They were the team we had been waiting since Year 7 to beat and, after a tight game, we won 18 – 20, so that, for the first time in many years, King's won the Macclesfield District Netball League.

This success could not have been achieved without the many Monday nights the girls gave up to train with tenacity, energy and enthusiasm. I am sure, like me, they always looked forward to the Friday afternoon games sessions, which were full of fun and focus. The commitment of the team is without a doubt commendable, as many of the players participate in a range of other sports such as hockey, horse riding, cheerleading and trampolining, to name but a few.

I must mention Sophia Bird and Imogen McCance who represented the Cheshire Netball U16s in the country squad. They had a remarkable influence on the game, playing a number of positions. They were willing to take on any challenge, to make the team a winning combination.



The success of the team was partly down to the first-rate facilities of four new netball courts however, we could not have been anywhere near as triumphant, without the exceptional coaching of Mrs Coleman: she encouraged us constantly, whether in rain or shine, tournament or match. It was thanks to the coaching of Mrs Coleman, both in club and school, that this season I gained a place in the U17 North West Regional Excel Academy. Hopefully, this hunger and love for netball will be passed down the line to the younger netballers, as several of us are involved with their coaching. The girls were a pleasure to captain, with wacky warm-ups and wonderful wins. Let's hope that next winter's season at least mirrors the accomplishments of this year.

Eleanor Bird 10VHB

U13

This is a competitive, committed and extremely able age group. There were consistently 30 girls who regularly attended training sessions. Congratulations go to Frances Gurney and Sophie Jackson, who were selected for Cheshire County U14 Satellites. Antonia Bianchi was also successful in the U14 Cheshire County trials, being selected for the U14 squad. Antonia was also selected to trial for the U16 North West regional trials.

The U13 squad played excellent, strategic netball within this year's Macclesfield District Netball League and the squad finished in third place overall within the A league, being narrowly beaten for a runners-up position by Poynton High School.

The squad was extremely well drilled and prepared for the Cheshire County Tournament and showed

tenacious and competitive netball. In the game against Lymm, after a slow and nervous start with the team very quickly going down 3 goals, the squad settled down to win 10 - 5. Against Fallibroome, the team played exceptional netball to win 8 - 7.

The game against Bridgewater, last year's winners, was tough but the girls stayed focused and played stunning netball to win 9 - 6. Sadly, King's lost 7 - 9 against The Grange. Still, the girls became division winners and were successful in making it through to the semi-finals against King's Chester. The U13 squad was confident of winning this important match and took an early lead 5 - 2. Sadly, following an injury to Frances Gurney, who fractured her ankle, King's lost the game. King's Chester went on to win tournament.

King's U13 played many Saturday fixtures against other Independent schools. Once again, they showed their potential and ability, beating many prestigious schools within the independent sector. Most notable were victories against QEGS 37 - 2; Birkenhead 43 - 4 and a B team win against Denstone 31 - 9.

The Stonyhurst Invitational Tournament was played early in the season: the squad played an exceptionally high standard of netball and Antonia Bianchi captained with determination, showing great leadership.

The squad won all divisional matches. They met a strong Stonyhurst in the semi-final but King's showed resilience and proved to be the fittest. They went on to play King's Chester in the final: the squad showed great skill but, disappointingly, were beaten 7 - 10.

CJC

U12

The Year 7 squad was comprised of very able athletes. Throughout the year A and B squads competed in the Macclesfield and District league, where both squads finished mid-table. On Saturdays, the teams travelled further afield; they enjoyed victories against Rydal Penrhos, Liverpool College, Denstone, QEGS, Blackburn, Withington HS and Birkenhead GS. The squads suffered defeats against The Grange and Newcastle-under-Lyme. Congratulations go to Ffyona Booker, who successfully trialled for U14 Derbyshire County Satellites.

CJC/CLB



Junior Netball

Pupils play competitive netball from Year 3. They begin with small group games and eventually progress into full games of netball. Wherever possible, matches are arranged for A, B, C and sometimes D teams, in order that all pupils have the chance to play for the school by the time they leave the Junior Division.

After a slow start to the year, the U11 A team had a very successful season, achieving success in the many matches they played. Their winning season ended on a high when they became the eventual winners of the Macclesfield and District Primary Schools' Netball Tournament, and also champions at the Terra Nova Invitation Netball Tournament. The U11 team, captained by Alex Cairns, is talented and they show great potential.

The U10 team made huge progress, beginning to work together and play competitively. Over the course of the year, the team played ten matches, winning six. Their end-of-year tournament was postponed, but they look forward to the challenges that Year 6 will bring.

The U9 team had a successful and rewarding year of netball. They consolidated their knowledge of the rules and were beginning to play as a team. A and B teams competed in friendly matches against Terra Nova, AESG and Stockport and the results were close.

NS

Orienteering

The school team attended fixtures across the North West of England, East Midlands and West Midlands. In the autumn and spring terms, we attended events on Sundays and in the summer term, after school. The spring fixtures were hit hard by very wintry conditions.

Two orienteering days were also incorporated into the Outdoor Activities Club, which were very popular with the students present. These took place at the side of Derwent water in the Lake District and at Rhoscolyn on Anglesey.

Having competed in orienteering events since Year 8, it was finally time to say goodbye to Jonathan Emery and Anton Petho, who headed off to university. They had some interesting personal battles against each other over the summer series of events.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Mr Colville for all his efforts over the past 15 years. Having been an integral part of the orienteering club staff, Mr Colville has 'retired' from involvement with orienteering to concentrate on starting a squash club. In those 15 years, Mr Colville has assisted with approximately 200 fixtures. Along with all the students involved, I am very grateful for his enthusiasm, energy and expert advice.

COD

Rounders

U15

Rounders was as popular as ever with the Year 10s. There were stunning catches and fielding, as well as batting, from Abigail Johnston, Ellie Bird, Sophie Brown and quick-fire bowling or loopy 'donkey drops' from Imogen McCance and Sophia Bird. These techniques were securely backed up by the ever-efficient back stoppers, Holly Brierley and Jenna Davenport. Many opposition players met their destiny because of the slick 'bowler-backstop - first/second base' triangle with Sophia Biggin's sure hands at 1st post and Jennie Mercer's at 2nd. Anna Callow, Sarah Laughton and Nicole Hughes contributed their fair share of the rounders and efficient fielding, to help ensure this was a year group worthy of the title, 'The Dream Team'!

DMB

U13

Rounders is a popular summer sport producing some exciting fixtures, with many strategies that can be implemented within match play. This was an extremely able group which produced some excellent results. Alexandra Clarke captained the squad, showing mature leadership skills. The squad also benefitted from outstanding performances from Evie O'Brien, Imogen Clowes, Helen Nixon, Matilda Stott and Sophie Jackson. The squad did well, with some noticeable victories, such as in the games against The Grange 28-10 ½, and against Lymm 15 - 4 ½. King's also recorded a win against Newcastle 11-8: this is always a tough fixture and the girls fought hard. King's fielded extremely well whilst Alex Clarke bowled with speed to prevent Newcastle from scoring.

The game against King's Chester, was a great match and everyone within the squad contributed. The fielding was excellent, and the deep fielders, Annabel Hebb, Matilda Stott, Charlotte Cramp and Ruby Thorneycroft contributed, making very accurate throws to fourth base. At a final score of 18 ½ to 10, this was a fantastic end to a successful Rounders' season.

CJC

Swimming

We were lucky to swim at Newcastle-under-Lyme School, St Edwards College and Sandbach School, competing in their annual galas. Traditionally,



Trampolining

This was the most successful year for King's trampolinists since the sport was introduced to the school seven years ago. Thirty-four pupils took part in the North West Championships and they secured exceptional results with outstanding performances from all who took part.

King's qualified to the North of Britain Championships in six categories with five 1st Team places, one 2nd Team place and six individual qualifiers. The standard of competition was very high but King's outstripped many other competitors with technically outstanding routines and by handling the competition pressure well. In the Girls' Elite teams, the U15s came 1st, the U13s 2nd, and the U11s 1st, whilst the U13 Boys' Elite team came 1st. Both the Girls' and the Boys' U11 Novice teams won 1st, whilst U13 Novice Girls' were 4th with U15 Novice Girls' 3rd.

Five out of six King's teams qualified for the North of Britain Championships and Rowena Moores qualified individually to represent the school in the British Schools' Trampoline Championships. At this event, three out of five teams achieved podium places. These achievements demonstrated the improved technical aspects of all trampolinists and showed the consistency of each pupil throughout the competitions. Rowena Moores became National Champion and King's was the most frequently represented school on the podium.

RB



our swimming teams do very well; they give a very good account of themselves and produce some excellent competitive performances. It is especially pleasing to have the commitment of talented pupils who train with external clubs.

Inter-School Galas are always very well-organised and performed in an enjoyable, if highly competitive, atmosphere. It is good that King's continues to be recognised as an enthusiastic supporter of such galas and we are grateful to all of the pupils who have contributed to King's swimming teams.

DMB

Junior Swimming

The swimming year began in November with the AJIS event at Darwen Leisure Centre. King's was extremely well-represented in 11 finals, although Susie Moores was our only medallist; she was proud to win Bronze in the Girls' U10 25m Butterfly. Luke Stevens came a frustrating 4th in the Boys' U10 25m Butterfly final; both these swimmers show great promise for next year.

Local galas took place in December against Cheadle Hulme and Year 5 and 6 teams narrowly lost in a very exciting match. Luke Stevens, Joey Chong, Aidan Carman, Remy Miller, Eleanor Norbury and Murray Redpath were event winners.

In March, Year 4, 5 and 6 children travelled to Stockport GS and were delighted to win by 270 points to 211 points. Our young swimmers thoroughly enjoyed the experience and proved to be extremely competitive; it was a busy schedule, but provided a

lovely opportunity for our swimmers to be part of such an enthusiastic and determined winning team.

King's then tried a new venture in April when we revisited Cheadle with a Year 3 and 4 team. All swam very well and had a lovely time experiencing the thrills and spills of racing. There were some extremely close finishes to entertain the supporting parents and Albert Bradshaw, Eve Carter, William Worswick, Isabel Moores, James Payne, Scarlett Brough and Oliver Brown were all delighted winners of their individual races. Relay teams were also successful and the King's Year 3 and 4 swim team was only narrowly beaten when the final scores were announced. This was certainly a very worthwhile initiative.

Our Year 5 and 6 House Swim Gala took place in May and a hot, hectic but happy afternoon saw over 130 pupils involved in 40 events, all hoping to win valuable points for their House team. Adlington became the Upper Junior House Champions.

In June, Year 4 swimmers enjoyed two sessions of competitive races and all swimmers were able to enjoy competing and representing their House team. Individual events and relays in a full range of strokes, gave children the chance to demonstrate their exceptional skills. Capesthorpe are Lower Junior House Champions.

Swim Captains this year were Sarah Abrahamse and Fionn Carman; both were pleased to receive swimming colours.

DCB

Awards & Prizes

Distinctions in Public Examinations

A Level

Pupils with 4 A*/A grades

Chris Hanak	Amy Sanderson
William Haynes	William Smith

Pupils with 3 A*/A grades

Chloe Abbott	Bethany James
Rafia Aslam	Kristina Killick
Megan Bailey	Jessica Lenderyou
Luisa Bianchi	William Machin
Keir Birchall	Ben Marsden
Lucy Brown	Katie Mellor
Maddie Coutts	Alex Rees
Hanja Dickinson	Lauren Rousseau
Adam Dixon	Kate Ryan
Jonathan Emery	Holly E. Smith
Robert Harris	Holly J Smith
Edward Horton	Charlotte Stafford
Sophie Hurst	William Strutt

GCSE

Pupils with at least 8 A*/As

Mioni Armstrong	Francesca Millin
Rheanne Beresford	Alex Moore
Toby Bianchi	Emily Mort
Jack Bradbury	Emily Mound
Darragh Burke	Joseph Murphy
Elisabeth Clivery Adamson	Lydia Myers
Jamie Cunningham	Christopher Noxon
Tom Eastgate	Jonathan Pinches
Jamie Edgerton	Edward Potts
Laura Embrey	Sophie Quinn
Katie Fray	Jasper Rossi
Jennifer Galbraith	Jenna Self
Keerthana Ganesh	Aaron Shaughnessy
Juliette Gorb	Jennifer Shering
Tabitha Green	Isabelle Shone
Jonathan Hammill	Jennifer Shone
Esteban Herpin	Ailbe Smith
Dan Hinchcliffe	Isabel Smith
Rebecca Hughes	Rebecca Sparks
Oliver Jones	Jessica Stuart
Holly Keen	James Sudweeks
Anja Knudsen	Alistair Thomson
Tom Lynch	George Walker
Terri Marshall	Anna Whaley
Finlay McCance	Ben Winrow
Edward McKee	

Special Prizes

Headmaster's Prize, Senior Reading, C A Bradley History Prizes	Sophie Hurst
Headmaster's Prize, Music Prize	William Strutt
Principal's Award, Chemistry Prize	Hanja Dickinson
Principal's Award	Harry Hayward

School Prizes (all age groups)

Sainter Prize (for scientific research), Maimi Wright Prize (for computing)	Keir Birchall
Ben Davies (Poetry) Prize	Eleanor Guiver
Dr Norman Maurice "Arclex"	Jack Brierley
Selwyn Russell Jones Sports Prize	Ben Marsden
Thornber Chemistry Development Prize	Jessica Lenderyou
Marcall-Costello Award for Endeavour in German	Charles Cockburn
Ken Brookfield Elizabethan Prize, Art (Selwyn Russell Jones) Prize	Harry Frost
I A Wilson Economics Scholarship	Simon Fullerton
Alex Anderson Memorial Quaich	Gracie Butler

David Pook Poetry Prize	Alex Denny
Boys' Division Robert Batchelor Prize	Thomas Carter
Girls' Division Robert Batchelor Prize	Meredith Stephenson
Junior Division Robert Batchelor Prize	Jodie Foxtton
Junior Division Robert Batchelor Prize	Maxwell Haigh

Retiring Prizes

Geoff Shaw Retiring Prize, Mathematics, Physics, Music Prizes	Laura Embrey
Val White	Poppy Kirk
Gillian Banner (Joint)	Samantha Rae
Gillian Banner (Joint)	Rosana Wardle
Michael Patey-Ford	Alexandra Swift
Clare Bingham	Ellie Hopewell

Upper School Prizes

Biology, Mathematics (Single) Prizes	William Haynes
Business Studies, English Language Prizes	Maddie Coutts
Design & Technology Prize	Dominic Sheratte
Classics (Wilmot) Prize	Tom Meadows
Economics (Canon F W Paul), English Literature, EPQ Prizes	Kristina Killick
French (William Broster)	Amy Sanderson
German (J O Nicholson) Prize	Jenny Calnan
Extended Studies (T B Cartwright)	James Crosby
Geography Prize, Development Trust Scholarship Major Award	Holly J Smith
Geology Prize	Jonathan Emery
History, Politics Prizes	Chloe Abbott
Mathematics: (Double), Physics Prizes	Chris Hanak
Philosophy, Spanish, Ron Darlington Jazz Prizes	William Machin
Physical Education Prize	Lorna Davies
Psychology Prize	Holly E Smith
Religious Studies (Thorneycroft) Prize	Charlotte Stafford
Senior Choral Prize	Clare MacKinnon
Senior Orchestral Prize (Joint)	Sarah Mycock
Senior Orchestral Prize (Joint)	Mary Thorp
Simon Schuler Computing Prize	Elliot Sime
Theatre Arts Prize	Rebecca Hughes

Middle School Prizes (Boys' Division)

Head Boy's Prize	Aaron Shaughnessy
Principal's Prize	Darragh Burke
Deryck Siddall Cup	Esteban Herpin
Best All Rounder Cup	Jonathan Hammill
Macclesfield Grammar School Challenge Cup	Tom Eastgate
Boys' Division Council Cup	Matthew Peakman
Year 7 Achiever's Cup	George Connolly
Year 8 Achiever's Cup, Lower School Reading Prize	Alexander Fray
Year 9 Achiever's Cup	Alexander Galbraith
Year 10 Challenge Cup	Robin Laughton
Year 7 General Science Prize	Alex Campbell
Year 8 General Science Prize	Fionn Carman
Art & Design, Theatre Arts Prizes	Alex Moore
Biology, Geography Prizes	Finlay McCance
Chemistry Prize	Jasper Rossi
Product Design Prize	Matthew Peers
English, Mathematics, Music Prizes	Jamie Edgerton
French Prize	James Shering
German Prize	Jack Bradbury

Awards & Prizes

History, Dual Science Prizes	Joe Hale
Latin Prize	Oliver Jones
GCSE Physical Education Prize	Toby Bianchi
Physics Prize	Alistair Thomson
Religious Studies (Thorneycroft) Prize	Matthew Williams
Spanish Prize	Edward McKee

Lower School Prizes (Boys' Division)

Junior Choral Prize	Henry Strutt
Junior Orchestral Prize	Henry Reavey

Form Prizes (Boys' Division)

10GAJM	Alex Blyth
10MSR	Matthew Smith
10PMA	Ben Rowbottom
10PI	Edward Thompson
9CAM	Oliver Quinn
9CJM	Ben Lynch
9JN	Jack Lucas
9PAUT	Max Watt
Religious Studies (Thorneycroft)	Freddie Hayward
8KB	Keeran Manoharan
8CEA	Luke Smith
8MTH	Kieran Bailey
8RWA, Religious Studies (Thorneycroft)	Angus Homer
7GJS	Sean Carroll
7LAT	James Rous
7SLJ	Joshua Clayfield
Religious Studies (Thorneycroft)	Joe Hopewell

Middle School Prizes (Girls' Division)

Head Girl's Prize, Chemistry, History Prizes	Katie Fray
Principal's Prize, Girls' Division Council Cup, Religious Studies (Thorneycroft) Prize	Rebecca Hughes
Macclesfield High School	
Best All-Rounder Cup	Anna Whaley
Year 7 Endeavour Cup	Sarah Catlin
Year 8 Achiever's Cup	Qing Xia
Year 9 Achiever's Cup, Macclesfield High School Isobel Day Cup for French	Eleanor Toms
Victrix Ludorum Cup (Outstanding Sportswoman)	Sophie Quinn
Macclesfield High School Somerville Challenge Cup	Caitlin Jacobsen
Jenny Lee Mathematics Prize, Anne Cohen Astronomy Prize, 10CHB Form Prize	Aiman Aslam
Macclesfield High School Susan Russell Jones Cup for German	Tanisha Orchard
Sue Bream Crystal Star	Ella Kennerley
Anne Craig French Prize	Jennifer Shering
History Essay, Middle School Reading, Dual Award Science Prizes	Mioni Armstrong
Year 7 General Science Prize	Charlotte Wardle
Year 8 General Science, Religious Studies (Thorneycroft) Prizes	Lauren Hayward
Art & Design Prize	Sophie Brown
Biology Prize	Keerthana Ganesh
English Prize	Jennifer Shone
German Prize	Anja Knudsen
Geography Prize	Olivia Morris
Latin Prize	Emily Mound
Modern Languages Prize	Juliette Gorb

Physical Education Prize	Imogen Ashwood
Product Design Prize	Victoria Provis
Spanish Prize	Isabelle Shone
Theatre Arts Prize	Anna Watson

Lower School Prizes (Girls' Division)

Junior Choral Prize	Eleanor McKenna
Junior Orchestral Prize	Rachel Catlin

Form Prizes (Girls' Division)

10GBS	Elise Boothroyd
10RAR	Olivia Watkins
10VHB	Rosie Turner
9ECS	Hanna Laniado-Green
9LEA	Freya Kapadia
9LuH	Frances Laker
Religious Studies (Thorneycroft)	Emily Underwood
8LB	Helen Nixon
8SJH	Georgina Boden
8TSJ	Alex Clarke
7CJAF	Julia Knyba
7EB	Beth Whiteley
7LAC	Megan Whiteley
Religious Studies (Thorneycroft)	Emily How

Junior Division Prizes

English: Reading	Matthew Hall
English: Speaking	Olivia Holder
English: Writing	Shanice Donatien
Mathematics	William Cann
Geography	Emily Higginbottom
History	Jamie Shuttleworth
French	Mollie Fyfe
Art, Design & Technology	Georgina Bergman
Music	Max Hine
ICT	Aidan Carman
Religious Education	Louisa Boden
Physical Education	Oliver Payne
	Sophia Eastgate
Science	James Gilda
Swimming	Sarah Abrahamse
	Charlie Ward
Games: Boys	Remy Miller
Games: Girls	Alex Cairns
Running	Charlie Ward
	Anna Mounteney

Form Prizes

Academic Achievement Prizes

5SM	Sarah Turner
	Tom Turner
5MW	Amanda Vel
	Josh Rajendran
5NS	Finn Knudsen
	Freddie Higginbotham
4EDM	Dominic Townsend
	Fay Fitzmaurice
4SCW	Oliver Hall
	Emma Graham
4KW/LC	Lottie Dennett
	Lewis Johnson
3JC	Emma Graham
	Fay Fitzmaurice
3VA/CK	Millie Crummack
	Lara Tabachnik

Awards & Prizes

Endeavour Prizes

6JEB	Imogen Collinson Saffron Milner
6ST	Casey Holliday Jason Kenning
6SR	Freya Snook Eleanor Norbury
5SM	Max Hough Thomas Knight
5MW	Charlotte Warren Christian Beeston
5NS	Charlotte Parker Charlotte Smith
4EDM	Henry Noble Isabel Watkins
4SCW	Toby Gray Isabella Johnson
4KW/LC	Jeremy Herpin Isabelle Sharp
3JC	Ben Hellewell Toby Denton
3VA/CK	Zac Spencer Pickup Angus Rutherford
Year 4 Young Artist Award (Mrs P J Aspinwall Trophy)	Cara Holliday
Mrs C J Hulme Y6 Musical Production Prize	Tasia Osborne
Cricket Trophy	Thomas Davies
Robert Batchelor Prizes	Max Haigh Jodie Foxton
Ridings Best All-Rounder Cups	Sam Jones Aisling Day
(and the Martin Badger Cup for All-Round Endeavour)	

Music Examinations

Autumn Term 2012

Associated Board Practical Examinations

Sixth Form

Name	Instrument	Grade	Result
Anna Townley	Piano	4	128 Merit

Boys' Division

Name	Instrument	Grade	Result
Alex Galbraith	Guitar	2	117 Pass
Angus Homer	Guitar	2	120 Merit
Harry Pinches	Piano	2	126 Merit
Henry Reavey	Piano	7	110 Pass
Aaron Shaughnessy	Jazz Saxophone	4	122 Merit
Dmitri Whitmore	Guitar	5	100 Pass

Girls' Division

Name	Instrument	Grade	Result
Sacha Allen	Singing	6	125 Merit
Rebecca Austin	Trombone	1	118 Pass
Anna Callow	Piano	4	116 Pass
Rachel Catlin	Jazz Saxophone	2	132 Dist
Evangelina Homer	Singing	3	121 Merit
Frances Laker	Cello	3	122 Merit
Emily Roberts	Singing	3	126 Merit
Harriet Rous	Cello	3	116 Pass
Jenna Self	Singing	5	120 Merit
Maddie Townley	Cornet	5	123 Merit
Eleanor Tunick	Singing	4	117 Pass

Junior Division

Name	Instrument	Grade	Result
Emma Graham	Guitar	1	115 Pass
Bethany Henshaw	Piano	3	117 Pass
Daisy Holden	Piano	3	116 Pass
Madeline Holden	Piano	1	133 Dist
Saffron Milner	Piano	3	116 Pass
Mollie Pettit	Singing	1	131 Dist
Amanda Vel	Piano	2	117 Pass
Spike Vidler	Guitar	1	105 Pass

Associated Board Theory Examinations

Name	Grade	Result
Thomas Andresen	6	76 Pass
Josh Towne	5	66 Pass
Sophie Quinn	5	86 Merit

Trinity/Guildhall Examinations

Sixth Form

Name	Instrument	Grade	Result
Justine Blake	Flute	8	76 Merit

Boys' Division

Name	Instrument	Grade	Result
Bradley Greatorex-Jordan	Keyboard	3	64 Pass
Alex Krajewski	Drum Kit	6	88 Dist
Siraj Lyons	Clarinet	4	76 Merit
Joseph Murphy	Clarinet	5	75 Merit

Girls' Division

Name	Instrument	Grade	Result
Eleanor Collett	Oboe	5	84 Merit
Anna Fenwick	Flute	4	75 Merit
Emma Gosney	Clarinet	6	88 Dist
Katie Hayward	Flute	4	89 Dist
Sameera Lyons	Flute	5	71 Pass
Eleanor McKenna	Violin	4	87 Dist
Emma Nockton	Flute	2	83 Merit
Zoe Richmond	Flute	6	75 Merit
Jenna Self	Bassoon	6	71 Pass
Issy Shone	Jazz Flute	6	72 Pass
Jen Shone	Jazz Flute	6	71 Pass
Elizabeth Stephenson	Flute	5	71 Pass

Junior Division

Name	Instrument	Grade	Result
Christian Beeston	Keyboard	In	89 Dist
Misha Higham	Keyboard	1	78 Merit

Spring Term 2013

Associated Board Practical Examinations

Sixth Form

Name	Instrument	Grade	Result
Tom Rheimberg	Piano	6	117 Pass

Boys' Division

Name	Instrument	Grade	Result
Ben Allmand-Smith	Trombone	1	134 Dist
Sam Andresen	Trumpet	3	135 Dist
Darragh Burke	Piano	3	102 Pass
Alex Campbell	Trombone	4	115 Pass
Thomas Carter	Trumpet	4	121 Merit
Harry Collett	Jazz Trumpet	1	132 Dist
Hugo Coulson	Guitar	1	124 Merit
Rhodri Evans	Guitar	3	111 Pass
Alex Fray	Guitar	3	130 Dist
Ben Lauber	Singing	4	120 Merit
Ben Lynch	Jazz Saxophone	4	127 Merit
Ben Lynch	Singing	5	122 Merit
Harry Lyons	Trumpet	4	120 Merit
Edward McKee	Trumpet	5	109 Pass
Aarian Mehrabani	Singing	3	130 Dist
Adam Murray	Cornet	4	100 Pass

Harry Pinches	Jazz Trombone	1	131 Dist
Oliver Quinn	Trumpet	3	115 Pass
Tomos Rands	Cornet	3	108 Pass
Sam Stokes	Trombone	4	102 Pass
James Thomas	Singing	3	120 Merit
Tom Voysey	Piano	1	130 Dist

Girls' Division

Name	Instrument	Grade	Result
Rachel Anderson	Singing	2	126 Merit
Fiona Beeston	Singing	3	127 Merit
Elena Boden	Singing	5	124 Merit
Elise Boothroyd	Cornet	2	128 Merit
Anna Callow	Singing	5	130 Dist
Sarah Catlin	Singing	2	126 Merit
Alexandra Clarke	Flute	5	130 Dist
Charlotte Cramp	Trumpet	4	120 Merit
Juliette Gorb	Piano	6	124 Merit
Verity Griffin	Violin	5	111 Pass
Sorrel Haughton	Violin	4	126 Merit
Lauren Hayward	Piano	3	120 Merit
Megan Huddy	Violin	5	125 Merit
Caitlin Jacobsen	Singing	5	114 Pass
Emily Jaques	Piano	2	127 Merit
Emily Jaques	Singing	5	131 Dist
Jessica Pettit	Singing	3	120 Merit
Rosana Wardle	Piano	3	120 Merit
Katie Wray	Singing	3	123 Merit

Junior Division

Name	Instrument	Grade	Result
Georgina Bergman	Singing	4	121 Merit
Harrison Blackaby	Viola	1	130 Dist
Scarlett Brough	Singing	1	124 Merit
Aisling Day	Cello	4	126 Merit
Shanice Donatien	Violin	3	130 Dist
Lauren Harbige	Piano	2	118 Pass
Emily Higginbottom	Piano	2	120 Merit
Freddie Higginbotham	Guitar	2	130 Dist
Madeline Holden	Piano	2	123 Merit
Hugh Horne	Trumpet	2	112 Pass
Lewis Johnson	Guitar	1	107 Pass
Keiran Melville	Violin	1	130 Dist
Saffron Milner	Singing	2	135 Dist
Merridy Russel	Guitar	1	124 Merit
Francesca Sawyer	Piano	2	125 Merit
Francesca Sawyer	Violin	3	126 Merit
Ben Sneddon	Piano	2	130 Dist
Freya Snook	Singing	1	122 Merit
Zoe Thomas	Singing	1	117 Pass
Darcy Woodfine	Singing	1	109 Pass

Associated Board Theory Examinations

Name	Grade	Result
Nicholas Harrington	6	68 Pass
Anna Steward	5	82 Merit
Eleanor Strutt	8	80 Merit
William Fox	5	87 Merit
Oliver MacFadyen	5	76 Pass
Jonathan Pinches	5	82 Merit
Henry Strutt	6	71 Pass
Tom Voysey	5	78 Pass
Sarah Laughton	5	81 Merit

Trinity/Guildhall Examinations

Sixth Form

Name	Instrument	Grade	Result
James Raval	Oboe	8	66 Pass
Iain Smith	Drum Kit	6	75 Merit

Boys' Division

Name	Instrument	Grade	Result
James Jordan	Drum Kit	2	67 Pass

Girls' Division

Name	Instrument	Grade	Result
Fiona Beeston	Keyboard	1	84 Merit
Emily Foster	Keyboard	3	77 Merit
Anna Gilmour	Flute	2	65 Pass
Frances Laker	Piano	5	64 Pass
Emily Roberts	Flute	7	75 Merit
Olivia Shaughnessy	Jazz Flute	6	67 Pass
Lydia Shone	Flute	2	73 Pass
Annie Thomson	Singing	5	72 Pass
Eleanor Tunick	Flute	5	77 Merit
Anna Whaley	Jazz Saxophone	6	73 Pass

Junior Division

Name	Instrument	Grade	Result
Christian Beeston	Keyboard	1	68 Pass
Toby Gray	Flute	1	72 Pass

Summer Term 2013

Associated Board Practical Examinations

Sixth Form

Name	Instrument	Grade	Result
Nicholas Harrington	Trumpet	8	125 Merit
Clare MacKinnon	Singing	8	135 Dist
Sean Odell	Piano	2	102 Pass
Kate Ryan	Piano	8	112 Pass
Charlotte Sampson	Piano	8	111 Pass
Mary Thorp	Piano	8	115 Pass
Anna Townley	Flute	8	131 Dist

Boys' Division

Name	Instrument	Grade	Result
Sam Andresen	Singing	3	131 Dist
Callum Barr	Clarinet	3	109 Pass
Thomas Dennett	Violin	4	103 Pass
William Fox	Jazz Piano	5	130 Dist
William Jones	Trumpet	4	103 Pass
Ben Lauber	Guitar	1	136 Dist
Jack Lucas	Singing	3	123 Merit
Ben Lynch	Jazz Piano	2	137 Dist
Harry Lyons	Double Bass	3	111 Pass
Siraj Lyons	Piano	4	113 Pass
Maitre Patel	Saxophone	2	112 Pass
Henry Reavey	Singing	5	132 Dist
James Rous	Guitar	1	117 Pass
Aaron Shaughnessy	Piano	4	120 Merit

Girls' Division

Name	Instrument	Grade	Result
Charlotte Abbott	Singing	4	111 Pass
Ciara Allen	Saxophone	2	126 Merit
Florence Blackwell	Singing	1	123 Merit
Lilian Breese-Tovey	Singing	2	121 Merit
Anna Cartwright	Singing	2	122 Merit
Zara Choudry	Singing	1	121 Merit
Imogen Collinson	Piano	1	120 Merit
Georgia Cooper-Taylor	Piano	2	117 Pass
Eleanor Fielding	Saxophone	3	127 Merit
Eleanor Fielding	Singing	5	135 Dist
Juliette Gorb	Cello	7	133 Dist
Emma Gosnay	Piano	5	115 Pass
Verity Griffin	Piano	2	117 Pass
Meredith Stephenson	Singing	2	112 Pass
Eleanor Tunick	Singing	5	109 Pass
Sophie Vlissidis	Singing	1	121 Merit
Louisa Whaley	Violin	3	103 Pass
Beth Whiteley	Eb Horn	3	137 Dist
Lucie Willis	Piano	3	115 Pass

Awards & Prizes

Junior Division

Name	Instrument	Grade	Result
Georgia Bailey	Singing	1	127 Merit
May Broadley	Piano	2	109 Pass
May Broadley	Singing	2	125 Merit
William Cann	Cornet	2	109 Pass
Aidan Carman	Piano	4	107 Pass
Emilia Cole	Piano	3	112 Pass
Emilia Cole	Clarinet	3	112 Pass
Millie Crummack	Piano	1	137 Dist
Nancy Davis	Piano	2	107 Pass
Alex Diedrick	Piano		Prep test
Sophia Eastgate	Singing	3	120 Merit
Jodie Foxton	Piano	3	121 Merit
Mollie Fyfe	Piano	2	107 Pass
Mollie Fyfe	Singing	1	102 Pass
Phoebe Gleave	Piano	1	111 Pass
Misha Higham	Singing	1	121 Merit
Sam Jones	Violin	4	110 Pass
Jason Kenning	Piano	3	127 Merit
Kate Marsh	Guitar	1	114 Pass
Susie Moores	Violin	2	121 Merit
Derrin Scott	Piano	1	130 Dist

Associated Board Theory Examinations

Name	Grade	Result
Ben Lynch	5	83 Merit
Tom Lynch	5	77 Pass
Rachel Catlin	5	78 Pass
Alex Clarke	5	92 Dist
Emma Gosnay	5	83 Merit
Olivia Hamblyn	5	69 Pass
Chloe Henshaw	5	84 Merit
Eleanor McKenna	5	73 Pass

Trinity/Guildhall Examinations

Sixth Form

Name	Instrument	Grade	Result
Hanja Dickinson	Clarinet	8	73 Pass

Boys' Division

Name	Instrument	Grade	Result
Matthew Calvin	Drum Kit	1	75 Merit
Aidan Carman	Bassoon	3	85 Merit
Oscar Johnson	Drum Kit	1	78 merit
Richard Smith	Keyboard	3	71 Pass
Marcus Wesley	Drum Kit	3	72 Pass

Girls' Division

Name	Instrument	Grade	Result
Polly Cartwright	Singing	5	73 Pass
Isobel Lovatt	Saxophone	5	80 Merit
Helen Lyons	Flute	8	65 Pass
Sameera Lyons	Jazz Flute	6	67 Pass
Bethany Marlow	Bassoon	1	71 Pass
Emma Nockton	Flute	3	88 Dist
Zoe Richmond	Flute	7	82 Merit
Elizabeth Stephenson	Jazz Flute	6	78 Merit

Junior Division

Name	Instrument	Grade	Result
Sebastian Bye	Flute	2	80 Merit
Eve Carter	Recorder	1	90 Dist
Toby Fraser	Recorder	1	84 Merit
Thoe Gheorghiu	Flute	2	71 Pass
Ben Hellewell	Recorder	1	89 Dist
Misha Higham	Keyboard	2	90 Dist
Freya Shaughnessy	Flute	1	81 Merit
Gagan Singh	Keyboard	In	79 Merit

The King's School in Macclesfield

Registered Charity: 1137204

Founded by Sir John Percyvale, Kt,
by his Will dated 25th January, 1502.
Re-established by Royal Charter granted
by King Edward VI, 26th April, 1552.

Supplemental Royal Charter granted by
Elizabeth II, 11th February 2009.

Governing Body as at 31st August 2013

Chairman:

A N Dicken BSc, CEng, FIChemE

Vice Chairman:

Dr J W Kennerley, BPharm, MRPharms, PhD

Co-opted Governors:

P T S Boyd, 2 Landseer Drive, Macclesfield

M G Forbes BSc, 3 Bridge Green, Prestbury, Macclesfield

R A Greenham FRICS, Langdale Jarman, Sutton, Macclesfield

Dr J W Kennerley, BPharm, MRPharms, PhD,
28 Walton Heath Drive, Macclesfield

A McInnes, Windrush, Gawsworth Road, Macclesfield

Mrs A E Nesbitt BA,
The Hollows, Willowmead Park, Prestbury, Macclesfield

C R W Petty MA (Cantab),
Endon Hall North, Oak Lane, Kerridge, Macclesfield

Brig K Ross, Old Parks, Marton Lane, Gawsworth, Macclesfield

Mrs J Spinks BA (Hons) PGCE, 2 Clough Bank House, Bollington

J R Sugden MA, FIMECHE,
4 Marlborough Close, Tytherington, Macclesfield

Ms J White, 2 Newhall Barn, Gawsworth

Ex-officio Governor

Mayor of Macclesfield

Nominated Governors

Appointed by the Lord Lieutenant of the County of Chester

A N Dicken BSc, CEng, FIChemE,
Merry Bank, 11 Magnolia Rise, Prestbury, Macclesfield

Appointed by Cheshire East Council

Mrs L Brown, 23 Eldon Road, Macclesfield

J P Findlow, LLB, Kandersteg, Broad Walk, Prestbury, Macclesfield

Mrs H Gaddum, Lane Ends House, Hollin Lane, Sutton, Macclesfield

Appointed by the Rt Revd the Lord Bishop of Chester

M Strutt, 10 Buxton Old Road, Macclesfield

Officers of the Foundation as at 31st August 2013

Head of Foundation:

Dr S Hyde MA, DPhil

Director of Finance and Clerk to the Governors:

J M Spencer Pickup BSc, ACA

Solicitors:

sas daniels LLP, County Chambers, 6 Chestergate, Macclesfield

Auditors:

Messrs Josolyne & Co, Chartered Accountants, Macclesfield

Bankers:

National Westminster Bank PLC, Macclesfield