

King's Colours

AUTUMN 2019

The termly newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield



Surge in GCSE results

Pupils celebrated another incredible set of GCSE results, which are significantly up on the previous year. A staggering 61% of grades are at 9-7 (A*/A equivalent) – up by 13% on last year – and 82% of all grades are 9-6 (A*-B). Over a third of pupils got at least nine grades at 9-7 (A*/A).

Headmaster Dr Hyde said: "It's been another superb year and I am delighted that our pupils have excelled. Brilliant exam results are an important element of school life, but we believe in delivering a rounded education. At the same

time as achieving these impressive results, these young people are playing a full role in the sporting, musical and creative life of the school and many are representing clubs and their county in sport and performing in choirs and conservatoires too."

Pictured (above) are seven of our GCSE high flyers: (from left) rock climber and Arkwright Scholar Ben McIlveen got three 8s, four 7s and three 6s and wants to work as an engineer; sailor and Duke of Edinburgh award holder Bryn Barker got four 9s, three 8s and

three 7s and wants to study Medicine; Louis Bradbury got two 9s, three 8s, two 7s, two 6s and one 5 and will study Maths, Further Maths, Computer Science and Physics in King's Sixth Form; Head Girl and hockey star Flossie Blackwell got one 9, one 8, five 7s and three 6s; brilliant National Youth Orchestra violinist Georgina Bloomfield got four 9s, three 8s and three 7s; chorister Rowan Sutton got five 9s and five 8s; while Duke of Edinburgh award holder Sam Wilcock got two 9s, two 8s, four 7s one 6, one 5 and an A*.

A Level pupils' stunning set of results

King's students also produced another stunning set of A Level results with 41% of all grades at A*/A. Pictured below (back row, from left) are: Harry Collett, who achieved A*AAA and will study Chemical Engineering at Leeds University; John Daly, who achieved A*AAA and will read Politics at King's College, London; Lydia Shone, who achieved A*A*A and an A* in her EPQ, who will study Medicine at Leeds University; Megan Whiteley, who achieved A*A*A*A* and will read Anglo Saxon, Norse & Celtic at Clare College, Cambridge; Fiona Beeston, who achieved A*A*A and an A* in her EPQ and will read Classics & English at King's College, London; Maisie Rowlinson, who got A*A*A and an A in her EPQ and will study Fine Art; Adam Murray, who achieved A*AA and an A* in his EPQ and will study Mechanical Engineering at Leeds University; and Sam Andresen, who achieved A*A*A*A, and will study Maths & Computer Science at Imperial.



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"We must all obey the great law of change."

Edmund Burke,
18th-century statesman and philosopher

EDMUND BURKE believed that change was not just inevitable, but that it was also a rejuvenating force and consequently a means of both preservation and conservation.

I am sure that this truth is applicable to schools. Whether we recognise it or not, schools are constantly changing as new pupils and colleagues arrive and others depart. At King's, we are always looking to improve what we do, so no two years are ever entirely the same.

Our staff, too, are also seeking to improve. Just recently, we have celebrated a number of staff who have gained Masters, postgraduate qualifications, completed counselling courses and even passed their minibus driving tests, proving to our pupils that we practice what we preach in terms of pursuing the goal of lifelong learning.

As a School, we stand on the cusp of the biggest change in our 500-year history. The move to our new site and the full realisation of co-education may appear daunting to some, but not for us. The school I have been privileged to lead for the last eight years has demonstrated that it is more than ready for the change, and will derive enormous, fresh energy from it: 'the means of our conservation' to paraphrase Burke.

I am delighted to confirm that the new campus is on schedule. We will be sharing shortly our plans for those who wish to support the 2020 Vision by way of a donation or room dedication.

As we excitedly look forward, it is important to consider our heritage. We produced a detailed heritage strategy to accompany our 2020 plans. The great oak table currently in the Alan Cooper Library (pictured above) was fashioned out of wood saved from the King Edward Street premises (our home from 1748 to 1854). The table is one of a number of items that will come with us to the new campus as part of our rich living history.

Dr Simon Hyde, Headmaster

Infant & Junior Success

Our younger pupils enjoyed considerable success in their recent assessments. In the Early Years (EYFS), 100% of pupils achieved a Good Level of Development (GLD) in all seven areas of learning, which is a fantastic achievement, and 36% of pupils 'exceeded' the expectations for their age. In the Key Stage 2 assessments (end of Year 6), pupils achieved:

Reading: 95% of pupils are working at or better than the expected standard (national average 73%).

Maths: 97% of pupils are working at or better than the expected standard (national average 79%).

Writing: 88% of pupils are working at or better than the expected standard (national average 78%).

Spelling/Grammar: 90% of pupils are working at or better than the expected standard (national average 78%).



Lifelong learning

Congratulations go to a number of staff who have obtained further qualifications. Laura Christie, Head of Year 7 Boys, and Jamie McGregor, Sixth Form Head of Year, passed the HMC Pastoral Leadership Qualification; Dr Simon Patrick, Head of Biology, passed the Higher Level Independent Schools' Qualification in Academic Management, also provided by HMC. Natalie Davis, Head of Learning Support, gained an M.Ed. in Special Educational Needs; Andrew Puddephatt, Head of Geography, earned a Distinction for his Masters in Education, and Richard Griffiths, our Academic Deputy Head, was also awarded a Masters in Education, Leadership and Management.

Ben's Engineering Scholarship



Year 12 student Ben McIlveen has been awarded a prestigious Arkwright Engineering Scholarship, part of a national programme to identify and nurture future leaders in engineering, computing and technical design.

Ben was one of over 2,000 applicants nationwide to

undertake the rigorous selection process, first submitting a written application and then attending an interview and displaying the bionic hand he made on one of King's 3D printers. Now studying A Level Computer Science, Maths and Physics, Ben will receive his scholarship funding alongside support for projects, a personal mentor from industry and valuable opportunities for work experience.



Java & Bali World Challenge



A group of intrepid Sixth Form students took on the World Challenge expedition to the breathtaking Indonesian islands of Java and Bali to help care for some of the planet's most endangered animals.

The students assisted international and local ecologists in Java's Yogyakarta Wildlife Rescue Centre, where they helped care for rescued animals that had been trafficked for their commercial value including orangutans, sun bears, bear cats and crocodiles.

It was also a physical challenge, with a week's trekking taking pupils to the summit of three volcanoes in East Java, including a tough four-day trek to the 12,000-ft summit of Mount Semeru, the island's highest mountain.



Miss Soutter said: "Volunteering with the Wildlife Rescue Centre was an incredible experience but also an eye-opening one, as many of the species are endangered and have been rescued from dire circumstances.

"Our students had the privilege of speaking to leading ecologists about preserving wildlife habitats and are now passionate about building awareness of these issues back in the UK."

Roman Chester trip for Year 4

Pupils in Year 4 enjoyed a trip to Chester to find out about the Romans as part of their enquiry question: 'Romans – brainy or brawny?' The highlight of the day was meeting a Roman soldier and marching with him to the amphitheatre, where pupils learned how to make different formations and were stunned to realise just how big the amphitheatre had been back in Roman times.



At the museum, pupils enjoyed looking at artefacts, making mosaics, preparing food using a pestle and mortar and dressing up as different Roman characters. All children returned to school more knowledgeable and enthused about finding out about the Romans.

Update on our new £60m campus

One year on from the start of construction, our new £60-million campus is on schedule to be completed by the end of May 2020. The main structure has been finished, ground works on the grass and all-weather sports pitches are well underway, and by Christmas, work will begin on completing the internal fittings.

Contractors VINCI UK have already put in place 1,300 tonnes of steel, 14,000 square metres of wall blocks, 15,000 square metres of floor slabs and 11,000 square metres of roofing. Work has begun on building a new roundabout at Four Lane Ends, with the widening of Alderley Road at the two main entrances to follow, along with street lighting.

The main academic building will provide bespoke accommodation for Infant, Junior, Senior and Sixth Form pupils.

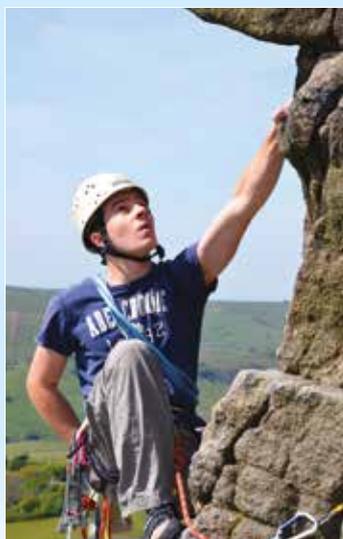


The senior school will include: a large science faculty; arts & design faculty with contemporary workshops, studios and exhibition space; performing arts faculty with practice rooms, drama halls, recording studio and recital theatre; a modern foreign languages faculty with language classrooms and laboratories; dedicated English, Mathematics and Humanities classrooms; a central library, lecture theatre and large entrance foyer.

The Sports Centre will offer a 25-metre swimming pool, a sports hall, indoor cricket nets and a dance/martial arts studio. Outside, the 80-acre campus will feature rugby pitches, two all-weather hockey pitches, cricket pitches, netball courts, tennis courts, football pitches, rounders pitches and a 400-metre athletics track.

For the latest drone footage, see: www.kingsmac.co.uk/new-campus

CHARACTER BUILDING...



Building character in young people has been in the news recently, with Ofsted and ISI (the inspectors of independent schools) now assessing schools on how well they build resilient and confident students. Evidence shows that resilient young people not only perform better in academic work, but are also happier and more able to deal with life's challenges. Ever ahead of the curve, King's has had character education and resilience at the forefront of our thinking for several years now. In the Infant & Junior Division it forms part of SCARF, an over-arching approach to behaviour and attitudes. In the Senior Divisions it is one of our five learning habits along with collaboration, reasoning, questioning and reflecting.





A bright pupil who gives up at the first sign of failure or difficulty is going to find it hard to succeed in their work and examinations.



What makes a resilient student?

Resilience has a number of aspects but is best described overall as the ability to cope with, and adapt to, adversity and challenging situations. It includes the ability to persevere when the 'going gets tough', which also requires self-regulation of emotions and a positive, optimistic mindset (the belief that 'if I keep trying things will get better or easier').

The University of Pennsylvania's Positive Psychology Centre has been studying resilience for several years and has identified self-awareness, self-regulation, mental agility, strength of character and optimism as part of a resilient person's mental make-up. The (ironically named!) Paul Tough in his seminal book 'Why Children Succeed' argues that it is character and resilience, rather than natural intelligence, which young people need to succeed. Clearly, resilience is a valuable character trait in life generally, but it is also vital in academic success. A bright pupil who gives up at the first sign of failure or difficulty is going to find it hard to succeed in their work and examinations.

Nurturing resilience

Whilst resilience is partly down to individual character traits, and can also be affected by life experiences, evidence suggests that it can also be cultivated by giving pupils opportunities to develop their adaptive skills, practising them in different contexts and developing a 'toolkit' to help them. At King's such opportunities abound. There are some which are very obvious – clearly, outdoor pursuits and the sport and extra-curricular programme (particularly DofE) are good examples

of what might once have been called 'character-building' activities where students are pushed out of their comfort zone.

In the Infant & Junior Division, SCARF is centred on a Growth Mindset approach, and promotes positive behaviour, wellbeing, resilience and achievement, meeting the new Relationships Education and Health Education statutory requirements. SCARF promotes crucial skills and the value of positive attitudes, both critical to ensuring that children become effective learners. The SCARF values provide a whole-Division approach to building essential foundations – crucial for our younger pupils to achieve their best, academically and socially.

We also ensure that we develop resilience in lessons through high challenge activities where pupils are encouraged to be 'stuck' and then work out how to become unstuck (one definition of being clever is knowing what to do what you don't know what to do). Teachers then talk to the students about the experience to enable them to think through their emotional reactions.

We want to offer pupils the chance to fail at something in order to develop the emotional toolkit to bounce back and be positive. All of which makes excellent preparation for external examinations which have been revised to become even more challenging than they were in the past.



Fostering independence

Independence and self-motivation are also crucial aspects of being resilient and this is something else King's excels at. In the recent Learning Quality Framework inspection, the visiting inspector wrote that 'in many schools the development of independent learners is a well-intentioned, yet largely unfulfilled, pipe dream. Not so at King's; the planned development of independent learning sets King's apart from almost all other schools.'

The Learning Challenge Curriculum throughout the Infant & Junior Division ensures pupils are encouraged to think deeply, as a 'Big Question' is introduced in Foundation subjects. Underpinned by extension questions, pupils investigate, collaborate, reflect, review and then celebrate. Clear learning outcomes with defined knowledge and skills combine, promoting a 'learn how to learn' approach for Infant and Junior pupils. This paves the way smoothly for life in the Senior Divisions. Activities such as our learning challenges in Years 7 and 8, departmental projects, the Headmaster's Summer Challenge, the Year 9 Aspire project (where pupils choose and investigate a topic for their own research), IGCSE Global Perspectives and the Extended Project Qualification in the Sixth Form are all designed to give our pupils increasing opportunities to exercise their own personal initiative and to undertake independent study – all important skills and attributes that will stand them in good stead when they leave us for employment or future study.

Further Reading:

- 'How Children Succeed' by Paul Tough
- 'Grit' by Angela Duckworth



South American rugby tour to Brazil & Argentina



King's rugby players enjoyed a stunning three-week tour of South America. The squad of 34 players undertook nine matches across three countries. The two teams won six of their games and lost three, including a superb display against the Brazilian U18 team

in a thrilling finalé losing narrowly 23–13. The bulk of the tour was spent in Argentina, enjoying wonderful hospitality and two emphatic wins against St John's School. After a short trip to Uruguay, the boys enjoyed two matches against Champagnat Rugby Club, winning both encounters before sightseeing around the panoramic capital Montevideo.

They returned to Argentina for two more hosted matches and their first losses against Cardinal Newman School, who will return the compliment with a trip to Macclesfield this winter, and Old Resian's Rugby Club.

A week's rest period saw the party enjoy a fabulous trip to the Iguazu Falls,

where Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil converge with a resounding crash as Head of Rugby Mr Hetherington said, "without doubt one of the most beautiful and breath-taking sights in the world, as millions of gallons of water crashed down around us."

The final leg of the tour led them to Rio de Janeiro and an immediate ascent of Sugar Loaf Mountain followed by a trip the next day to see Christ the Redeemer.

In Brazil, the pupils had their most 'humbling experience', according to Mr Hetherington, "the privilege of leading a coaching session for 35 local boys and girls from the favelas."

The tour came to a thrilling finalé against the Brazilian U18 side.

SPORTING BRIEFS...



Cricketing victory

The 1st XI Cricket team had another excellent season finishing with a run of five consecutive victories. The wins included a clean sweep at the end of season festival with victories over Rossall School, Barnard Castle and Edinburgh Academy. Joey Chong scored a century in a victory over the MCC for the second successive season, as well as a second century against Edinburgh. Tom Carter scored a fine century against Edinburgh and Captain Angus Thomson made an excellent 100 in a victory over Cheadle Hulme School.



Athletic success

Junior Athletes were overall winners of the Macclesfield & District Athletics Championships. Bronze medals were won by Noah Wild, Phoebe Woods, Sam Booth and Callum Richardson; Silver medals were won by Sam Booth, Marianne Knuckey and Martha Reaney; while Gold medals were won by Sophie Payne, Poppy Fletcher and the girls' relay team.



Netball selection

Lydia Hine has been selected for the Manchester Thunder U15 netball squad, which is part of the England Netball Pathway. Lydia is U14 and has achieved this a year early. She successfully trialed against 400 top netball players from the North West region. Lydia is a tenacious and competitive player with excellent attacking skills.



Football win

Congratulations to our Year 4 Football team, who won the Manchester City U9 Football Tournament in September.

As this is one of the team's first ever competitive fixtures, they performed exceedingly well and had a fantastic experience.





U11s win AJIS Cup

The U11 cricket team won the AJIS Regional Cup in a breathtaking final against Manchester Grammar School. The hotly contested final took place on the front field at Cumberland Street under blue skies and sunshine. Captain Christian Smith took the last three wickets as King's beat MGS by a single run to lift the cup. MGS had seemingly been cruising to victory on 74 – 0 chasing 102, when the King's bowlers began to take wickets courtesy of accurate bowling and supportive fielding. James Waters set up the win with an incisive spell, but Christian finished the job with three quick wickets to take the silverware.



Annual cricket match

The annual former pupils' cricket match took place in June with a team of recent leavers playing against the school. The Old Boys batted first with Will Dowd and Stu Gurney both falling early before Matt Calvin (23) and Dan Crosby (42) set about rebuilding the innings. King's bowlers bowled tight spells but it was the introduction of Tom Carter (4 for 11) that spun the innings to a close for 111. Finlay Calder and George Clarke bowled superbly for the Old Boys without much luck as Angus Thomson (20) and Sam Buckingham (52*) set the platform for the school. Spin bowler Paul Roberts took 4 for 24, leaving the school to limp over the line for a three-wicket victory.



June 2020 will see the final games of cricket on the school 'Front Field'. If you would like to be involved in the final alumni match, please get in touch with Mr Moores. If you just want to field for a few overs, that can be arranged, or just bring the family along for a picnic. Precise details are yet to be finalised, so an early indication of numbers would be helpful. Contact: Stephen.moores@kingsmac.co.uk



Over-60s Alumni lunch

In June, we hosted the first ever over-60s lunch at Sutton Hall in Macclesfield. It was lovely to catch up with some of our former pupils who enjoyed reminiscing about their memories from school as well as their lives since leaving King's. The next over-60s lunch will take place on Thursday 7 November.

Manchester Drinks

It was a great turn out and a glorious evening for the annual former pupils drinks event in June, held this year at Cloud 23 in Manchester's Hilton Hotel. Fabulous views over Manchester and Cheshire were enjoyed by around 30 guests spanning the decades, from recent leavers to those who recall TT Shaw. Former members of staff, Tony Browne and Bill Beatson, as well as former pupil and current staff member Richard Lees, were also present.



Alumnae netball match

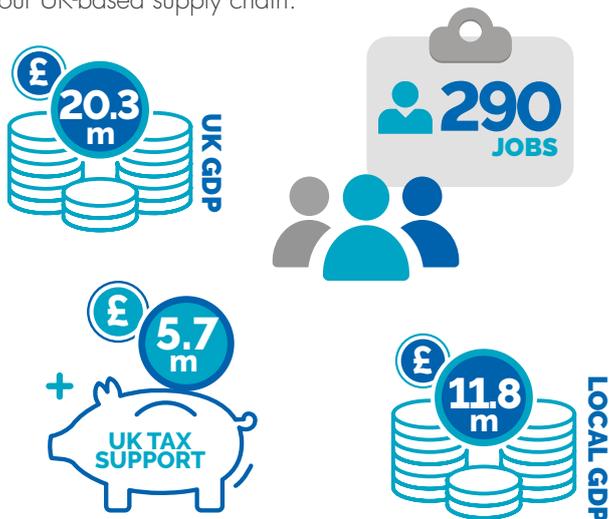
In September, we hosted our second alumnae netball tournament. The weather was kind for the 45 former and current netballers who turned out for a fun and competitive morning. It was an excellent round robin tournament, with a number of extremely close matches and it was quite clear that the former pupils have maintained their competitive spirit! The final outcome was a tie between the Senior First VII and a team that were one of the most successful squads within King's that included Ellie Bird, Sophia Bird, Imogen McCance, Abi Johnson, Jenny Mercer and Nicki Hughes. The Seniors won on goal difference.



Economic Impact

We recognise the economic impact of the School's activities, both in the local and national economies, as well as the impact of our new £60-million campus.

King's provides direct employment for 250 people in a wide range of roles, including teachers, librarians, cleaners, gardeners, sports coaches, IT engineers, data analysts, nurses, librarians and laboratory technicians. The School also supports a further 40 indirect jobs in our UK-based supply chain.



Our School's total contribution to the UK's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is £20.3 million. This is made up of direct GDP, indirect GDP in our supply chain and the spending of our staff and suppliers. Our School's total contribution to the GDP of Cheshire East local authority district is £11.8 million. In addition, the total amount of UK tax supported by King's activities is £5.7 million.



Bursaries & financial assistance

Widening access to our school is a key strategic aim. We currently provide bursary assistance to a large number of pupils who would otherwise be unable to attend. Each year, around £600,000 is committed to assisting deserving local children to take up places at King's. In the Sixth Form, we offer a number of bursary awards, including the School's Quincentenary Bursaries, the Merchant Taylors' Bursary and the Alex Anderson Bursary. Numerous activities take place throughout the year to raise funds for our Bursary Fund, including an annual Golf Day for alumni and local businesses (pictured).

Philip Goodfellow, who was selected as one of the best five runners in the North West to compete in the London mini marathon, finishing 16th out of 240 boys.

Reece Grady, who won three National Medals in swimming and became English Champion in 200m Breaststroke.

Poppy Holding and **Emily Carter**, who represented the school in the Grass Roots Dressage Competition at Beaver Hall, both qualifying for the Championships in December.

Fin Nash, who represented the Cheshire U12 Cricket team in the Shrewsbury Cricket Festival.

Jake O'Donnell, who came second in both the U15 British Short Distance and the British Middle Distance Orienteering Championships. Jake has also been selected to represent England against the home nations in Northern Ireland in October.

Oliver Rogerson, who was awarded Seamanship over the summer.

Francesco Roncaroli, who won the British Fencing Youth Championship qualifiers.

Angus Thomson, Tom Carter & Joey Chong, who all scored centuries in the cricket season and will have their names added to the honours board.

Annabel Wong, who came 4th at the AJIS Tennis Tournament and represented Cheshire in the National Tennis Finals in June.

U11 Football team, which won the Macclesfield and District League and the Reliance Cup.

FORMER PUPILS...

Ashley Barrett (2016), who graduated with a First in Archaeology & History from Sheffield University. He was also awarded the Emily Willey Prize in Archaeology and the Ian Sanders Honours Prize in Classical Archaeology.

Jamie Edgerton (2015), who got a First Class BSc in Chemistry from Cambridge University.

Brendan Jacot (2016), who graduated from Hertford College Oxford with a first in PPE.

Madeleine Phillips (2016), who graduated with a First from the University of Birmingham and is joining the University of Cambridge to gain her teacher training qualification.

Honor Price (2016), who achieved a First class degree in Animation from Falmouth University and is going on to a Masters in Directing Animation.

Adam Russ (2016), who received an award for an outstanding final year performance and a First in Physics, Astrophysics and Cosmology.

Dr Rebecca Sugden (2009), who completed her PhD in French and has been appointed as a Research Fellow at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge.

Victoria Tann (2015), who graduated with a Distinction in her Masters in Victorian Literature from Oxford University. Her dissertation on Edward Lear received the highest mark in the cohort.

Cameron Redpath (2015) and **Teddy Leatherbarrow** (2015), who represented England and Scotland respectively at the U20 World Rugby Championships in Argentina.

KEEP IN TOUCH

The King's School, Macclesfield

tel: 01625 260000 | email: mail@kingsmac.co.uk

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