



Paralympian Dame Sarah inspires pupils



FOURTEEN Gold Medal winner Dame Sarah Storey, fresh from her success in Tokyo, told a packed audience of pupils in Years 4 – 8: "Don't think 'What if I had tried harder, done that extra practice session, gone that extra mile.' Never allow yourself to fail for want of practice and hard work."

Dame Sarah answered pupils' questions about all aspects of her career, her highs and her lows. She told pupils, "Determination, hard work, practice and resilience aren't just reserved for sport, but should be transferrable skills across all aspects of your life."

"If you feel upset when you fail, then let that build your determination and, most

importantly, don't be down-hearted, just think of failing as an opportunity to learn where to improve."

Dame Sarah, who began swimming seriously at Stockport Metro aged 10, remembers being told, "I'm sorry, but you're a bit too old to start."

"Well I wasn't going to let that stop me and I tried all the harder. I did eight or nine training sessions every week, clocking up over 20 hours a week all through my teenage years, swimming up and down that black line to build my strength and technique."

That dedication certainly paid off with Sarah going on to win two gold medals, first in swimming, before remarkably transferring to cycling and winning a further 12 gold medals. For good measure there have also been a further eight silver and three bronze medals in swimming, 40 world titles and 77 world records across both sports.

There could be more to come as she revealed to the King's pupils, "I definitely want to go to Paris in 2024."



Time capsule

Pupils left a legacy for tomorrow's generation when they buried a time capsule in front of the new school. As part of the Year 7 'learning challenge' at the end of last term, pupils were asked to create a letter or a picture detailing what life is like now and their hopes for the future. The best five entries, two drawings and three letters, went into the time capsule along with a pen; a lateral flow test and a face mask; a drone photograph of the new school site; a newspaper covering England's football win in the Euros against Germany; the current top 5 songs in the UK charts and a King's school tie.

IN THIS
ISSUE...



New
student
leadership
team

P3



P4-5

Howzat...
Sport is
back!



Former
Pupils'
news

P6-7

HEAD'S UPDATE



THE removal at the start of this term of the significant restrictions that dominated last academic year has been well received. School has been fortunate to operate as close to normal as possible. This has had a significant and positive impact on everyone: pupils are enjoying the school campus with freedom and energy, able to explore their new environment for the first time despite having been in the building for over a year. Staff are approaching their lessons with renewed vigour and imagination, able to plan lessons without inhibition and fear of risking close contact identification and resulting isolation. The impact has been a tangible change in the mood of school, with less tension and a more relaxed atmosphere, where everyone can concentrate more fully on the business of educating young people.

It has also been wonderful to be able to invite visitors into school so that we can 'show off' our amazing new facilities. We have been desperate to demonstrate just how wonderful the school is, and we've created many different opportunities for our community



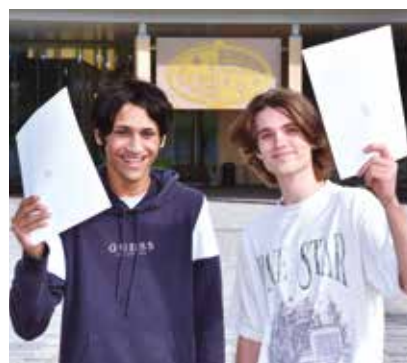
to come and see what all the fuss is about. Central to this was the wonderful 'Summer Fun Saturday' which was a suitably sunny occasion when families could simply come into school to have a look around. It was very well supported and it was fantastic to see and hear children and their parents laughing and enjoying each other's company. I am grateful to the Friends of King's for making this event possible.

The return of a full extra-curricular programme has also been uplifting, not just for pupils and staff but for parents now able to support their children and the school teams from the sidelines. Interschool matches have returned in force, and it's been great to chat with parents on these occasions and get to know more about our broader school community – even if it is more than 12 months since I started. There's been so much to get excited about and inspired with; the return of whole school assemblies, Welcome Evenings, Prize-giving, the list has grown longer as term has progressed. I'm not quite sure that we realised how much we had missed these things until they returned. We look forward to more normality in the coming months, with concerts and shows being planned and the gradual introduction of school trips.

Thank you for your continued support of School.

Jason Slack, Head of Foundation

Record results!



This summer, our Sixth Form students overcame the challenges of studying through a pandemic to record a stunning set of A Level results. After repeatedly working

remotely from home for months on end through the Covid lockdowns, their perseverance was rewarded with 69% of all grades at A*/A and 90% at A* to B. More than half of the year group achieved three straight A grades or better.

One of those with excellent results, Zac Patterson (pictured right), who got three A*s and an A and is now reading English Literature at Durham, said: "We had to show great self-discipline, sitting at a computer all day trying to master online learning as well as our subjects. It would have been easy to get distracted, but we had to keep focused."

Also recording excellent grades were this year's GCSE pupils, who also had to navigate their exams during the Covid lockdowns. That endeavour and resilience was rewarded with a remarkable 49% of all grades at A* (9–8), 71% at A*/A (9–7) and 85% at A* to B (9–6).

African American struggle

The African American freedom struggle was put under the spotlight by Professor Kevern Verney. The internationally renowned American Civil Rights expert gave Sixth Form students a deeper appreciation of both the key individuals and the tide of socio-economic change behind the fight for improved black rights.

Professor Verney, who is the Associate Dean for Research at Edge Hill University, took students into the past, stating "The charismatic Dr Martin Luther

King was standing on the shoulders of great African American leaders of previous generations." Professor Verney noted the roles of the black scholar and civil rights activist William Edward Burghardt Du Bois, Asa Philip Randolph, who formed the leading African American trade union, as well as the contribution of President Lyndon B. Johnson, who "gave over 200 speeches on African American Civil Rights during his lifetime."



Meet our new student leaders

As part of our commitment to student leadership, the School has appointed a team of Year 13 leaders, comprising two School Captains and four Vice Captains, as well as a team of Year 11 Prefects, who will take on a number of leadership responsibilities.

New School Captain **Lottie Dennett**, who represents King's at hockey and pistol shooting and wants to read Veterinary Science at university next year, said: "With the Covid restrictions of last year, I – like a lot of pupils – really missed the social side and sporting aspect of school, and I am thoroughly looking forward to getting back to a full sporting programme and different year groups being able to mix with each other to encourage an even stronger sense of community."

Fellow School Captain **Charlie Oakes** is studying Geography, History and English with a view to reading Geography at either Durham or St Andrews.

The team of four Vice Captains includes athlete and guitarist **Tom Willshaw**, who

wants to study Medicine with a view to ultimately joining the Royal Navy; talented hockey player and academic **Isabel Moores**, who wants to study Law at university; all-round sportsman **Nohan Alias**, also with an ambition to become a military doctor; and accomplished open water swimmer and long-distance runner **Trinity Mack**, who to read Biochemistry at university.

Taking on equally important roles are this year's Head Boy and Head Girl and their deputies. Head Boy **Aaryaa Premanand** wants to study Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Economics in King's Sixth Form. Talented all-round sportswoman, **Iona Whaley**, who represents King's both at hockey and at trampolining is Head Girl. Iona, who wants to be a doctor, said: "I joined King's in the Infants and it has been so welcoming and friendly, it's great to be able to give something back."

Taking on the Deputy Head Girl and Boy roles are **Vismaya Aji**, **Madi Baxter**, **Chris Drake** and **Thomas Danson**.

Pupils draw on national robotic success

Four pupils from King's Infant & Junior Division have won prizes in a national Science competition.

As part of the UK Festival of Robotics, infant pupils entered the 'Draw a Robot' competition and Junior pupils entered the 'Once Upon a Robot' writing competition, which challenged pupils to write an 800-word story featuring any kind of robot their imagination could conjure. The two competitions were judged by robotics experts from the organising ESPRC UK-RAS Network, plus Iszi Lawrence, author of 'The Unstoppable Letty Pegg' and Fiona MacDonald, Head of Learning at the Design Museum in London.

Emily Potter (Year 4) was the national winner of the 'Once Upon a Robot' writing competition. Emily's story, titled "Lenny Lifts Christmas" was selected by the judges as the Winner of the 2021



Competition, out of over 100 eligible entries from across the country. The judges said: "We were really impressed with the creativity and clarity of Emily's story, and thought the dialogue and characters were believable and that the story was well-paced."

Emily's prize includes not only a robot, but a printed copy of her story with bespoke illustrations by Hana Ayooob. Runner up was Alex Price (now in

Year 7), whose essay detailing the functions of his robot "Alexus", a natural successor to today's Alexa, showed how the next generation of robots will be able to provide genuine friendship as well as support for the older generation.

In the drawing competition, the overall winner of the national competition was Tehmina Walker (Year 2). Science loving Tehmina produced an innovative, forward-thinking recycling robot that was able to turn off lights and taps, recycle plastic and paper and even clean up litter.

The runner-up prize went to Edward Marsden-Smith (Year 3), whose design had a trowel and fork for hands, recycled food waste into compost in its mouth and converted old plastic into plant pots and other reusable household essentials.

We're Back!

It has been wonderful to see the sports fixtures programme start again in earnest as pupils represented the school in netball, rugby, hockey and cross country. Pupils across all divisions have enjoyed some excellent games and enjoyed the return of competitive fixtures. For some pupils, it has been their first experience of competitive sport and they have been learning important lessons about match etiquette, rules, loss and victory.

CRICKET



Last year's U12 cricket team lifted the Cheshire Cup when they beat King's Chester by 46 runs in the delayed final at Macclesfield Cricket Club. Batting first, King's scored 118-5 in their 20 overs, with Liam Yahathugoda scoring 40 and Joe Moores 33. In reply, King's bowled out King's Chester for 72 runs to win.

Wickets were shared around amongst Liam Yahathugoda (3), Alfie Usher (2), Leo Burns (1) and Ted Black (1), with two run outs

from Will Hayes, one from Adi Nair and some excellent keeping from Joe Moores. The boys now qualify for the national stages of the cup as U13s next summer. The victory capped an excellent season for the team who only lost once, narrowly to MGS, during the summer term. The Cheshire Cup squad included William Bennett, Ted Black, Leo Burns, Alex Cresswell, William Hayes, Archie Hood, Rory Horne, Xander Hunter, Joe Moores, Adi Nair, Dylan Parks Szymborski, Ollie Price, Alfie Usher and Liam Yahathugoda.

RUGBY

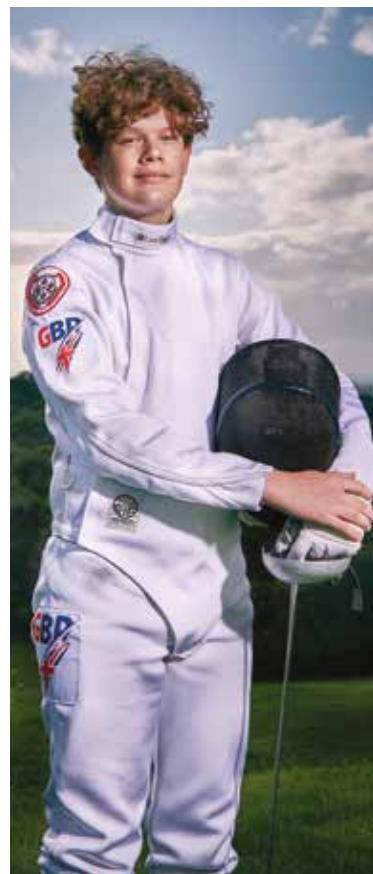
The rugby season has started brightly, with the U16s in particular recording some excellent victories, including against Lancaster RGS (49-0) and QEGS Wakefield (38-25). Many of the boys have also enjoyed individual success with Ollie Davies, Freddie Griffiths, Jake Jones, Koby Wilkinson, Evan Williams and Toby Wilson all selected for the Sale U16 Academy squad. There have been other good King's wins for the U12, U13 and U14 A and B teams, whilst the U15s have progressed to the Second round of the National Schools Cup with a 26-7 victory at Crossley Heath.



The 1st XV secured their first success of the season, 10-5 against Merchant Taylors', whilst the 2nd VX recorded a very pleasing 63-12 win at Sandbach School. The U16 and 1st XV both continue their search for silverware in the Cheshire Cup. From U14 upward we have in excess of 40 players being put forward for the Sale Sharks Developing Player Programme (DPP).

FENCING

Will Gem, in Year 11, has been selected to fence for the GBR U17 team in Belgrade on 23rd October. Best of luck Will!



SWIMMING

Brothers Reece and Mason Grady continue to make waves in the national swimming arena. Reece won three National Swimming titles over the summer and has been selected by Swim England North West to join the Regional Pathway Programme and to compete in the Flanders Competition in Antwerp, Belgium. Reece currently tops the national rankings in the 16 Years Age Group for 800m freestyle as well as the 400m individual medley. Mason, who competed in the National Swimming Competitions over summer, now ranks top in Cheshire for his age group in the 50m free, 50 fly, 100m free, 200 IM and 200 free.



NETBALL

The netball season got off to a good start with pre-season training for all age groups before term began. The first fixtures of the term took place in the Sisters in Sport cup, where the U12s, U14s and U16s proceeded to the 2nd round after convincing victories against Tytherington School and Oldham Hulme Grammar school respectively. The U13 Netball team proceeded to the 2nd round of the ISNC and the U15s and U19s move to the Plate competition after hard fought and well contested games against The Grammar School at Leeds.

Representative honours have been achieved by a number of pupils: Lydia Hine (pictured above) captained Manchester Thunder U15s in the National Schools Games, where they were crowned 2021 Champions. Lydia has since been selected for the England Roses Academy. Madi Baxter was selected for the Loughborough Lightning Academy U17 squad, Daisy Sutton was selected for Leeds Rhino's U15, Lalli Brown was selected for the U13 Manchester Performance Academy, and Minty Kight was also selected in the U15 Manchester Long squad.

HOCKEY

The senior hockey girls are through to the 3rd round of the U18 National Schools Competition, having beaten Stockport Grammar (3-1) and Nottingham High School (10-0). They are also in the 2nd round of the Independent Schools Cup after victory over Wakefield High School (11-1).

There has also been much success at an age group level, where the U13s are performing particularly well. The boys' 1st XI and 2nd XI recorded convincing wins against Birkenhead School, and the U14s and U15s were successful against St Anselm's. Sophie Fletcher, Minnie Jansen, Ella Bray, Georgia Willman, Archie Offer, Jake Jones (all U17), Tash Clark and Callum Richardson (both U15) are all involved with PC training squads.



EQUESTRIAN



In September, six riders represented the school in the dressage classes at Southview: Poppy Holding, Georgie Lyons, Oliver Ravenscroft, Libby James, Freddie James and Tilly Machin. The team finished in 5th place, a great result as some of these riders were making their debut in the dressage squad. Tilly Machin finished second in the Elementary section and qualified for the NSEA Championships in October.

In the 75cm Jumping with Style class, Reuben Blackhurst won the class and qualified for the Championships. The team of Poppy Holding, Oliver Ravenscroft and Reuben Blackhurst all jumped clear rounds and finished in 2nd place – with both Reuben and the team qualifying for the Championships.

More excellent rounds followed in the 85cm class from Georgie Lyons, Tilly Machin and Freddie James joining Oliver, Reuben and Poppy. Both teams performed well but missed out on qualification.

Also competing was Emily Hancock, making her debut for King's at Beaver Hall in the 70 and 75 cm show jumping classes. She was placed 3rd and 2nd: amazing results for her first school competition.

CALL UPS & HONOURS

Annabel Wong, in Year 7, enjoyed a wonderful summer of success on the tennis courts. The 11-year-old is ranked Cheshire County No.1 in U11 girls' tennis, having won the National Tour at Bradfield in June. Annabel, who started playing tennis at just two-years-old, is now an LTA National Pathway Player, and is sponsored by Wilson Tennis.



Congratulations to all the **junior pupils** who participated in the AJIS Cross Country competition at Rossall School in September. The children were fantastic, running well in very tough conditions. The Year 5 boys' team finished third overall, with several individuals achieving top ten places in their age groups.



National orienteer **Jake O'Donnell** has been selected in the England U16 Orienteering team for the Junior Home International in Surrey. Jake, who is competing a year younger, was also asked to attend the British Junior Orienteering Squad Under 16 training camp.

Ebony Gaddum, in Year 9, has qualified for the British Gymnastics Championships, despite still recovering from a pelvis fracture. Ebony has demonstrated incredible resilience, determination and hard work to get to this qualifying stage.

Rocky Maguire won the Silver medal in the finals at the England Boxing National Schools Championships 2021 (Male Cadet Under 54kg).

Ritz Brown has been chosen in the Burnley Football Club Academy U12 squad.



Celebrating 90 years of RUGBY



In September, rugby players from across the decades helped to celebrate 90 years of the sport at King's.

Up until 1929, the School had always been a football school in winter with cricket the main sport in the summer. However, the arrival of two ardent rugby players on the staff, Messers M. S. Fox and S. Taylor, alongside a new rugby enthusiast T.T. Shaw, who eventually became Headmaster, saw King's start rugby and adopt the handling game officially in 1931. The first ever match was against Manchester Grammar School Second XV, who were beaten 15 – 6. MGS then sent their first XV alongside dozens of other top schools across a hugely competitive Northern circuit, one of the great spawning grounds for the English game. Every year since then, King's teams have competed, week in week out, during the autumn and winter terms.

This year's celebration saw King's welcome back around 200 former pupils, players, staff and rugby coaches who all enjoyed not only a fantastic former pupils' match at Derby Fields, but also tours of the new campus and the magnificent sporting facilities enjoyed by current pupils.

From former England international Jos Baxendell to the only surviving member of the 1945 'Magnificent Seven' William Hancock, now aged 94, King's stalwarts of the game shared the happiest of memories on a heart-warming Saturday. Jos, who left King's in 1990, and went to play for Sale



TOP LEFT: King's First Rugby XV of 1931. **ABOVE:** 1. Action from King's former pupils game. 2. Geoff Shaw, former Head of I & J Division, Guy Mason, Tim Herron & Richard Chadwick. 3. Rick Wright, Marc Turner, John Hughes, Jos Baxendell and Guy Wolstencroft. 4. Coaches Tony Browne, John Dougherty, John Percival, Mark Harbord & Reg Davenport.

for 12 years with two England caps at centre, summed up the feeling: "It was fantastic fun and I'm still mates with all the boys now. King's gave me a great grounding for my professional career, but most importantly, it was just an absolutely wonderful and immensely enjoyable part of my life."

Former pupil Rick Wright flew in from Ghana for the event, and was a member of the same group of players as Jos. He has since set up rugby clubs in Beirut, Sierra Leone and Ghana, and went to see Jos play an international in South Africa. He added: "My closest

and oldest chums are all King's rugby players and when Jos got capped by England it was an incredibly proud moment for all of us."

The celebration event also saw some of the school's legendary rugby masters and former sports coaches meet up with their former charges. Guy Mason, a former King's player and latterly King's Head of Rugby, said: "I remember the great coaches: Reg Davenport, Graham Wilson and Mark Harbord, who are all here today, and I still use some of the techniques they taught me."



King's netballing alumnae take to our new campus courts

The start of the new academic year saw the return of a number of alumnae netball players, as King's welcomed back some of the sportsmen and women who have given the school a national reputation for sporting excellence.

Around 21 alumnae players formed three teams of more recent leavers who enjoyed a competitive tournament involving the current First team and U16 squad.

Amongst those demonstrating their love of netball was Katie Hindson, who left in 2003, and who remembered the netball tour to The Netherlands. "At that time the boys were going on rugby tours to exotic places like South Africa, so we said we wanted our turn and went to Holland. It might not have been as far, but it was still



great fun, meeting up with other schools for an overseas tournament and I have to admit sneaking off at night to go out."

TOP LEFT: Eliza Fletcher and Alex Brooks.

RIGHT: Emma Hill, Ali Mair, Katie Hindson and Sophie Painton.

ABOVE: One of the Alumnae teams in action at the tournament.

17 December | 12.30pm
Christmas Lunch | School Campus

29 December | Macclesfield 2nd XV vs King's Macclesfield Former Pupils
Macclesfield Rugby Club

18 January | 7pm
Former Pupils' Association | Annual General Meeting

9 June 2022 | Alan McInnes Bursary Fund Golf Day
Prestbury Golf Club

DIARY DATES



Over-60s lunch

The end of September saw a welcome return of our Over-60s Lunch Club, the first since the beginning of the pandemic. A number of alumni, former and current staff enjoyed lunch with the Head at the Legh Arms in Prestbury. We look forward to welcoming everyone to our next lunch at Christmas.



Now more than ever, it's important to feel connected and part of something, which is what makes our exclusive online network for King's alumni – **King's Connect** – so much more than just a network.

By joining our King's Connect community, you can:

- Keep in touch and re-connect with friends and teachers
- Join specific clubs depending on your location, profession and interests e.g. King's in London, Law Network, OOs Alumni
- Share stories and photographs
- Advertise your business/ services (jobs board coming soon!)
- Join our mentoring scheme, either as a mentor or mentee
- Register for events and socials
- Exclusive access to news stories, interviews and archive material.

To join, scan the QR code below, or visit:

www.connect.kingsmac.co.uk



Cancer Research's Tough Mudder



A huge well done to the 'Kings Super Six' team who undertook the Children's Tough Mudder 5k race for life in October in aid of Cancer Research UK. The team of Year 8 boys, Harley Coulson, Leeson Sheldon, Josh Phillips, Joe Moores, Freddy Hempstock and Zach Al-Ausi, wore their King's rugby kit with pride and together they raised a huge £3,300.

Support for Kenya's Destiny Garden

King's Infant & Junior Division is continuing to support its partner school, Destiny Garden School in Kenya, by sponsoring the school's feeding programme. Last month, representatives Mrs Kennerley and Mrs Bell provided pupils in Year 1 to 6



with a special assembly about life in Kenya and the key differences between life there and life here. The Infant and Junior pupils were surprised to hear that the school meal is the only meal pupils receive each day. This year, our retiring collection at our Harvest Festival Service will be dedicated to Destiny Garden School, Kenya.

Macmillan coffee afternoon



Thank you to everyone who came along to the Macmillan Coffee Afternoon and bought cakes in support of the charity. We are delighted to have raised over £1,000 for Macmillan. Each of the School's Houses stepped up to the mark and created wonderful cakes sales, which were enjoyed by parents, staff and pupils. The stands were incredible and house points were awarded for creativity and contributions raised for charity.

Georgia's swim for charity

Congratulations to Georgia Smalley, who completed her charitable Swimming the Distance challenge in September, swimming 26 miles for the Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation. She raised just under £250 for the charity. Thanks go to parents and staff who supported her and the charity.



James Hartley, who represented Hyde CC and **Ollie Davis, Toby Wilson, Sam Hughes, Freddie Griffiths, Fred Reardon** and **Ollie Jennings**, who represented Macclesfield CC in the Jack Gardner Championship Trophy, after both teams won their respective U15 cricket leagues. James helped Hyde to a hard-fought victory.

Finlay Nash and **Joe Moores**, who have represented Cheshire U14 Cricket XI.

Emily Carter, who passed her Grade 5 flute exam with Merit.

Bea Stockwood, who passed her Grade 1 flute exam with Merit.

Michaela Quinn, who passed her Grade 4 flute exam.

Harriet Bright, who achieved a Merit in her ABRSM Grade 5 Piano exam and a Distinction in her ABRSM Grade 5 Theory.

King's hockey players **Sophie Payne, Alexa Watkins, Poppy Fletcher, Phoebe Woods, Walter Lowe, Sam Booth, Isaac Todd, Callum Richardson** and **Zac Farrer**, who were selected for Tensworth U13 hockey. Callum and Sam were in the winning U13 team in the inter-county tournament.

Lewis Johnson, for achieving a Merit in his PPE Course at Balliol College, Oxford University in the Summer.

Jo Whiteley, who achieved a Distinction in her ABRSM Violin Diploma.

Ruby Ambrey-Brosnahan and **Amelie Manson**, who have been awarded place on the Junior Programme at the RNCM.

Lily Cook, who passed her grade 7 singing ABRSM with distinction.

Edie Waters, who passed her grade 6 singing Trinity with a Merit.

Pippa Smith, who passed her grade 2 singing ABRSM with a Merit.

Daisy Franks, who passed her grade 1 singing ABRSM with a Merit.

Amber Cheshire, who passed her grade 3 singing ABRSM with a Merit.

Alex Cooper, who passed her grade 3 singing ABRSM.

Beau Wade, who climbed the 3 peaks with his family.

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