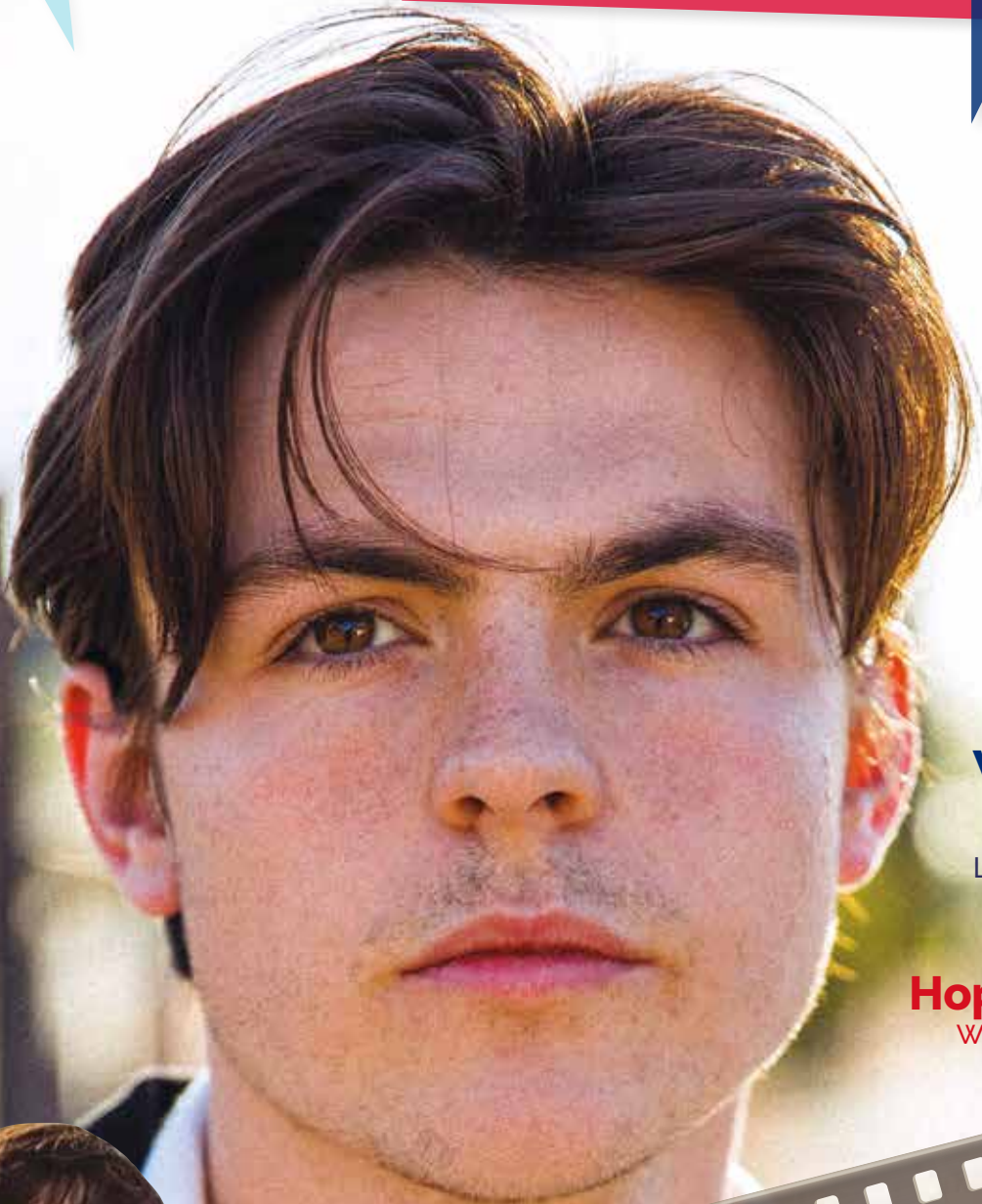


King's Speech



What makes Adrian Tik?

Life with social media
app TikTok

Hopeful Career

With anti-slavery charity

Let It Be Blake!

Ex-pupil lands dream Beatles film role



Editor's Welcome

THIS is the ninth edition of *King's Speech*, and continues the run of annual magazines aimed at the school's former pupils that began in 1982. It is the biggest yet – and even so, lack of space has meant that we have had to relegate some items to online availability. This is happily a reflection of the health of the Association, and of the input we are being offered from an encouragingly wide range of former pupil sources.

We have tried to continue to include the usual spread of items, including both news that we think may be of interest to the readership, and features that as always illustrate the amazing breadth of activities that are experienced by former pupils. Comments on topics covered, or indeed on any matters of interest to the school's former pupil community, are as always very welcome – as too would be suggestions for possible topics for inclusion in future editions.

As always, the past year has seen the passing of a number of well-known figures who have made their mark on *King's* in their different ways. Thus, we sadly have to report the deaths, among others, of three former members of staff, and of Barry Jones, who was President of the Former Pupils' Association from 2005.

Now that the school has become pretty well-established in its new surroundings – I am sure it will sink in rather better once the view through the memorial gates in Cumberland Street ceases to be virtually the same as it has been for decades past! – increasing

numbers of former pupils have been able to visit, often with a specific purpose in mind. There seems little doubt that the facilities, the design and the whole ambience have been very warmly approved by virtually all who have seen and experienced them. Former pupils will also be very pleased to learn that demand for places at the school has been extremely healthy this year.

Whilst this in itself brings inevitable problems, albeit of a kind that is definitely preferred to the opposite situation, it also augurs very well for the future of *King's*.

Finally, I must thank the other members of the team who put this magazine together, and who work very hard to do so. Caroline Johnson is now an old hand, Gill Mullarkey continues to produce a superb outcome from limited resources, and Jenny Armitage, in her first year as Alumni and Development Manager, has already made major and innovative contributions.

Ian Wilson,
Editor



IN THIS ISSUE

Editor's Welcome	2
From the Helm	3
From the Chair	4
Meet Your Committee	4-5
Your News	5-7
Covid-19 Pandemic	8-9
Neil's Hopeful Career	10-11
90 Years of Rugby	12-13
Medics Around the World	14-15
Charting a Course to Paris 2024	16
Let it Be Blake!	17
What makes Adrian Tik?	18-19
War Hero Fred Moffatt	20-21
Let's Get Connected	22
Supporting King's	23
School News	24
Correspondence Corner	25
Obituaries	26-27
Events Round-up	28



COVER PHOTOGRAPHS:
MAIN IMAGE: © Josh Fairbrother
INSET: © Mark Large/Daily Mail

King's Speech is produced by King's Director of External Relations Caroline Johnson, Editor Ian Wilson, Development & Alumni Manager Jenny Armitage and Designer Gill Mullarkey. We'd love your feedback or contributions for the next issue. Please contact: former.pupils@kingsmac.co.uk

GOING GREEN:
King's Speech is now mailed using compostable polywrap and can be accessed digitally on **King's Connect**

From the Helm



WHEN I wrote my introduction to *King's Speech* last year, the school was deep in 'lockdown' and educating pupils remotely. As successful as this provision was, it was set against a backdrop of frustration at not having children in classrooms, and not being able to occupy the new school in the manner that was always imagined. These frustrations were quickly replaced by unbridled joy and excitement when restrictions eased and the school started the current academic year under very close to normal arrangements.

Despite having already been open for a whole year, circumstances dictated that our first whole school assembly for Senior and Sixth Form Divisions didn't take place until September 2021. A thousand pupils and staff congregated in the Jackson Hall on the first day of term for this historic occasion. Tradition still dictates that everyone falls silent and stands when the Head enters the Hall and the sense of occasion was palpable. Not just because this was the first assembly in the new school, but also because the school hadn't come together in this manner since before the pandemic had started. It made the hairs

on the back of my neck stand up and was an emotional and deeply moving occasion for all concerned. Former pupils will be relieved to know that this initial moment of awe was quickly followed by more mundane announcements such as lunch queues, areas out of bounds and break time routines.

The year has been sprinkled with similar 'firsts' at the new site; our first Infant Nativity filled the hearts of hundreds of watching parents with pride and joy. The first music concert was another signal of rebuilding an area that has suffered more than most during the lockdowns. More recently, we have had the first senior production in the form of 'Little Shop of Horrors', running across three nights to a total audience numbering close to a thousand.

It has also been glorious to restart all our extracurricular provision. In particular, the regular opportunity to support



children representing their school in various sports on a Saturday morning has been welcomed by parents and staff alike. The chance to chat to parents on the side line has been missed during the pandemic.

We've taken every opportunity to show off our new home in the last seven months and the strategy is paying off. Our profile and popularity are both increasing. It's also been wonderful to welcome former pupils into the new school to see our amazing new facilities on the numerous occasions that have been arranged during the year. I look forward to meeting more former pupils in the coming months.

Jason Slack
Head of Foundation

From the Chair

A YEAR on and I was hoping that by the time this next magazine came around to be printed again, the so called pandemic would be over. Not quite, but the encouraging thing is that the School has once again braved the storm exceedingly well in difficult circumstances and all the staff from the Head down must be applauded for this grand effort.

Whilst we are applauding I should like to make special mention of the new person in the role of Alumni and Development Manager – Jenny Armitage. Jenny had a hard act to follow, but she has performed exceedingly well and has built upon the strong foundations laid by her predecessor, Lauren.

I am sure you will have noticed how communication lines have been expanded under Jenny. She posts regularly and creatively on social media platforms and these are well received and presented in a timely and professional manner. Jenny is a great asset to us all.

This also leads me on to the exciting new alumni initiative shortly to be launched which will be known as the Ambassador Programme – I personally have been advocating such a scheme of having alumni representatives defined by year group for some time, but it is Jenny and Caroline who have finally brought this to fruition and later on you can read all about it and hopefully subscribe to it yourself.

I am equally excited about the rebranding campaign, worked upon by committee member Andy Savill and his team. Our aspiration to modernise our Association is very much at the top of our agenda and I look forward to the outcome of this work.

Finally, at the time of writing we learned of the very sad news that our beloved President Barry Jones had passed away. Barry was a wonderfully kind and gentle man, a great friend to all who were lucky enough to know him, a devoted family man and the best supporter of the School we have ever known. He will be truly missed.

Kind regards and best wishes to all.

David Barratt, FPA Chairman

Meet your FPA Committee

Your Former Pupil and Staff Association Committee:

Chair:
David Barratt

Treasurer:
Jonathan Spencer Pickup

Members:
Bill Beatson
Robert Bracegirdle
Ken Grant
Stuart Griffiths

Julian Jones
Amber Owens
Michael Pedley
Andrew Savill
Chris Shingles
Rob Thorneycroft
Tristan Wood
Jenny Armitage
(Alumni & Development Manager)

PROFILE AMBER OWENS

I was privileged to have joined The King's School Sixth Form in 1988, leaving in the summer of 1990. My time at King's is full of happy memories and I have maintained lifelong friendships with many of my former school friends. Many a weekend was spent either playing or supporting the hockey teams, and sport remains a really important tradition at King's School today.

I am now a qualified Accountant and Head of Finance for a manufacturing company in Macclesfield.

As a family, we love the outdoors and in my spare time I am a keen outdoor swimmer and now pleased to be able to swim in the new pool at King's having opened up the facilities to local swim clubs.

I live locally in Macclesfield with my husband and we are very proud to now have a son, Harry, at King's, who joined in Year 6 and is now in Year 13 and is shortly due to sit his A Levels and finish his Gold Duke

of Edinburgh Award. Harry has loved every minute, just as I did, at King's. Academically he has loved the challenges and, from a sporting perspective, could not have been happier being able to represent the School at both rugby and cricket. He has made many close friends who, I am sure, he will maintain contact with after leaving school on whichever pathway he chooses.

It was an honour to join the FPA Committee last year, and I am excited by the prospect of supporting all current and former pupils and staff

with a framework to include mentoring and networking assistance. I can think of no better place to educate young people with the magnificent new campus and facilities which further enhance the first-class education King's has always provided. Within each child is a budding artist, scientist, musician or sportsman. It is the desire of the FPA to help them in any way we can.



PROFILE STUART GRIFFITHS

I left King's 30 years ago in 1992, after joining a decade earlier in Mrs Houghton's 1C class. My first weeks at the school were quite the culture shock when compared with my Bollington Primary School, but I soon found my feet



and enjoyed King's life as I progressed through juniors and seniors. Whilst I enjoyed lessons, it was the extra-curricular opportunities that I think of most when I look back on my school days, and where the real value was to be found. It is also where I met my wife Nicola!

I was invited to join the Former Pupils' and Staff Association 12 years ago, and I have hugely enjoyed being close to the school again, particularly

during the move to the new site. I have fond memories of the old premises, but the new location and facilities are incredible and the School has a bright future here.

All three of my children attend or attended King's and it has been a fantastic experience for each of them. My sons have played rugby together in the 1st XV this year, with the eldest as Captain, and to see them take to the pitch together at Derby Fields to represent the school has been my proudest moment.

Like a lot of former King's pupils, I look back with huge affection for the teachers whilst I was there. I still live locally in Bollington and it's a real pleasure to bump into them from time to time, those who taught me (Geoff Shaw, Tis Bevan) and even those who didn't but I have got to know and made friends with since.

Meet JENNY ARMITAGE

ALUMNI & DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Jenny joined King's in June 2021 as the Alumni and Development Manager to continue the work of growing the King's Community. Before joining King's, Jenny had a successful career in events and is looking forward to growing and getting to know the School's alumni community.



Jenny has taken over the running of our new alumni platform – **King's Connect** – and is enjoying writing news stories and learning about our alumni. This platform is continuously growing and has just celebrated its 1st birthday. Since joining, Jenny has also launched a mentoring service on the platform to allow alumni to mentor each other, and to also work with current Sixth Form students to help with their careers and university-related questions. Jenny has enjoyed getting our events programme off the ground since the pandemic brought it all to a stop. The first big event was our 90 years of rugby celebration, which was a great success.

Jenny is currently setting up an **'Ambassador's Programme'** to help keep each year group connected with the School, so if you would like to step forward as a representative for your year group, please get in contact with her.

Jenny is also keen to welcome as many alumni to the new campus as possible, so please join one of our upcoming events, or get in contact for a tour: former.pupils@kingsmac.co.uk

YOURNEWS



Peter's moving farewell

Peter Jackson (1976) retired from his role as Estates Manager at King's in the summer of 2021, after completing the biggest and most challenging job of his 45-year working life – managing the relocation to the school's new campus.

"Frankly", he recalls, "I don't know how we did it. There must have been 5,000+ packing cases to transfer from the two previous sites, hundreds of deliveries from suppliers to the new site to be arranged and lots of new technologies to be integrated – and all during the first Covid lockdown!"

Peter had left King's to take up an electrical engineering apprenticeship, later working variously at a Californian ski resort, for the BBC at Broadcasting House, and for Macclesfield Borough Council as a facilities manager.

From Russia, with sanctions

When Prime Minister of the mid-20th century Harold MacMillan was asked what were the greatest challenges faced by statesmen, he famously responded "events, dear boy, events".

Guy Laurence (1980) must currently be thinking very much the same, in his role as Chelsea chief executive. When he was appointed to the job, government sanctioning of the club's owner in the light of a Russian

invasion of Ukraine cannot have been an event he could possibly have predicted. He should have some interesting tales to tell at some point in the future!



YOUR NEWS

SPEAKERS' CORNER



Dr Hannah Lock (2008) (above right) visited King's to speak to students about different pathways in medicine. Hannah is an Emergency and Expedition doctor.

Maddie Coutts (2013) came in to School to talk to pupils about the areas of the sports industry they can work in without being an athlete.

Helen Nixon (2018) came in to help Year 12 and 13 students with their ethics questions in preparation for university interviews for Medicine.



30 years of Duke of Edinburgh Awards

30 years ago, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme was launched at King's. It started with a meeting in the Alan Cooper Library with 20 boys and their parents exploring the possibilities.

The programme has gone from strength-to-strength over the years with a total of 215 students currently taking part. The scheme allows pupils to explore things they enjoy and they learn invaluable skills which they can use throughout life. Please share your fondest memories of DoE and any pictures: former.pupils@kingsmac.co.uk



New Horizons for Dolly the Sheep

Simon Conning (1979) left King's to go south, and won a scholarship to the Royal College of Music in London. Last October, he played in the town for the first time for 42 years, in a free concert at St Michael's Church.

Ed Beattie (1989) has become a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Marketing.

Prof Grahame Bulfield (1959) recently featured on a Horizon TV programme 'The Cloning of Dolly the Sheep'. Dolly was the first ever cloned mammal, in 1996, at the Roslin Research Institute, Edinburgh University, and the TV programme marked the 25th anniversary of the historic event. Grahame was Director of the Institute, having initially left King's to take a degree in Agriculture at Leeds University. He is now emeritus Professor of Genetics at Edinburgh, as well as an elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (1992), in Cell and Molecular Biology, and of the Royal Agricultural Society of England (1999). He became CBE in 2001.



Francesca Millin (2016) left King's to read English at Leeds University, and then completed a Masters in Corporate Communications, Marketing and Public Relations. Currently a graduate trainee with Transport for London, she previously spent work experience time with the BMW group.

'Superstar CEO' Andy sees share price soaring

When **Andy Bird** (1982) was recruited in October 2020 by Pearson from Disney, where he reputedly earned over \$10m a year, *The Guardian* described him as having 'superstar CEO' status, given the incredible salary plus remuneration package the educational publisher was forking out. 'Bird is considered a whizz in digital transition', said the newspaper, 'the quality Pearson still lacks', having fallen in recent years to only 92nd by market capitalisation in the FTSE 100 index, and having had to issue seven profit warnings in the previous seven years under the previous CEO. By the time Bird pitched the merits of his proposed strategic overhaul to city investors less than six months later, however, *The Guardian* was telling a different story, with Pearson shares closing 6% up immediately on the announcement.



Nigel Baker-Brian (1975) is one of many former pupils continuing their active life as sportsmen well beyond the stage when most of their contemporaries have retired. He currently captains the Cheshire over-60s hockey side.

Tony Moores (1969) is another – still taking wickets and scoring occasional runs for Macclesfield 3rd XI well beyond traditional retirement age!

Jamie Edgerton (2015), as well as a successful academic career at Cambridge, has also had the distinction – thought to be only the second such in King's history – of becoming a 'double blue' in 2021, for cross country and Athletics. In February 2022, Jamie came 15th, out of more than 2,000 competitors, in the English National Cross-Country Championship.



Cameron Redpath (2017) had an exhilarating debut for the Scotland Rugby squad in February 2021, when they defeated England at Twickenham in the Calcutta Cup. He achieved his second Scotland cap in February 2022 in a match against Wales in the Six Nations.

Beryl Footman, former Headmistress of Macclesfield High School for Girls, visited the King's campus in January to have a tour of the site and sit down with school captains to talk about their future plans. She was impressed with the new facilities and the education that King's provide.

Simon David Machin (1958) is now Emeritus Professor of Medical Statistics at Sheffield University. An undergraduate at Leeds University, he has held positions all over the world, including Singapore, Brussels, the WHO in Geneva, and Cambridge. He has written many articles and books, including as co-author of the well-known 'Medical Statistics: A Textbook for the Health Sciences'.



Beth Burrows (2015) has been selected to represent England in the Cheerleading Word Championships 2022 in Orlando.

Maurice's Inside Story

Maurice Cole (1957), writing as Colin Morris, has recently released a book that lifts the lid on the inner workings of local government during his very successful career as a senior executive. It is called: 'Counsel to Council: the Inside Story'. Maurice read Law at Manchester University, and was then articled to the town clerk of the time in Macclesfield, Walter Isaac. He later himself became the youngest town clerk in the country in 1969, as well as later becoming chief executive of Castle Morpeth Council.



Tommy Taylor (2010), after five very successful seasons at Wasps, during which he gained international honours for England, has returned to play for Sale Sharks. He began a three-year contract during the current season at the club where his senior rugby career began. Tommy achieved his 150th Gallagher Premiership Appearance.



CONGRATULATIONS TO...

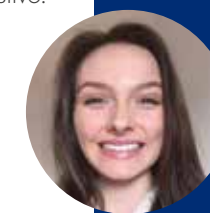
Will McIlveen (2017), who graduated in 2021 with a Masters in Maths from St Andrews.

Eleanor Tunick (2017), who received a First in Marine Biology and Oceanography from the University of Plymouth.

Lauren Hayward (2018), who received a First in English Literature from the University of Birmingham. She is now doing a Masters in International Relations.

William Hancock (2013), who graduated from the University of Bristol and is now working for PWC in London and who qualified as a Chartered Accountant in September 2021.

Henry Ives (2018), who achieved a Distinction in HND in Construction Site Management, while working as a quantity surveyor in Manchester.



Maddie Dawson (2018), who is currently a PGCE trainee in Chemistry at King's and has just been offered a job at MGS. A pretty good way to start placement two!

James Jordan (2018), who achieved a 2:1 Hons in Business Management from Sheffield University and is now working in the motor industry.

Abi Cook (2018), who received a First in Psychology from Durham University and is now doing a Masters in Behavioural Science.

Alex Calder (2010), who got his Doctorate from the University of Leicester in 2020 and is now an F2 working in a GP surgery.

Becca Calder (2016), who received a First in Ancient History from the University of Lampeter and a Masters from Nottingham University and is now starting her first job at Nottingham University.

Ollie Leatherbarrow (2020), who was selected for the Scotland U20 rugby squad, making a number of appearances in the U20s Six Nations Tournament.

IN FOCUS...

Covid 19

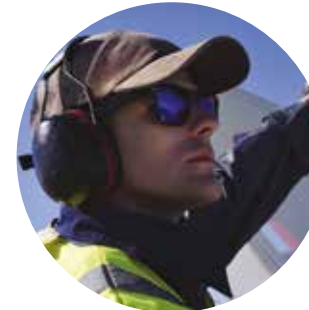
... the pandemic that changed the world



PHOTO: Anna Shvels/Pexels



At the beginning of 2020, the world went into a state of shock as Coronavirus spread across the globe, bringing everything to a halt. For the next 24 months, life as we knew it changed dramatically. While many stayed at home, working and talking to family on Zoom, and making the best of lockdown, thousands of key workers worked tirelessly to keep the country going and everyone safe. Former pupils **PETE JACKSON** & **CHRIS WESTWOOD** recount how their working lives changed as the pandemic hit the country.

**PETE JACKSON**

Pete left King's in 2011 after his GCSEs to follow his dream of joining the Royal Air Force and protecting UK air space.

After entering the forces, Pete decided that being an engineer

was the right specialism for him and he is now a Mechanical Engineer on Typhoon fighter jets. His role is to keep them ready to fly at a moment's notice and solve the problems when something fails.

Although Pete expected his career to be ever-changing, reacting to the situational needs of the country, he never expected his life to change due to a virus sweeping the globe. Whilst continuing to keep the aircraft operational for their usual duties and in case of an emergency, Pete was called to train council staff around the country on Covid testing equipment as the programme was rolled out by the Government. This then transitioned into helping test the public as the programme expanded.

As the situation with cases in the NHS worsened, and as we took to our doorsteps on a Thursday evening to applaud the NHS, the troops were called in to help on the frontline. Pete's role changed again and he found himself in Brighton at the Worthing Hospital. He was there to provide manpower to reduce the strain on NHS staff by working on the Discharge Ward, collecting patients and medicine, as well as booking transport for all outpatients who required assistance.

As things began to ease after the first wave, Pete was deployed back to his usual posting maintaining the aircraft and training engineers from Qatar on how to tend the aircraft. Many people's lives and day-to-day routines changed during the pandemic and still have not returned to 'normal'.

**CHRIS WESTWOOD**

Former pupil **Chris**, who left King's in 2001, saw his already busy role amplify as everyone was stuck at home.

Chris is the Senior Operations Manager at the Manchester Amazon Fulfilment Centre and he

oversees the packing of every order that leaves the centre and ensures it is delivered on time.

As lockdowns were imposed and shops forced to close, people were restricted to only going to shops for essential items, so everyone looked to the internet. Amazon's order levels rocketed overnight. Not only did Chris and his team's workload suddenly increase, some orders were the only way self-isolating people were getting supplies.

Another challenge presented itself; as most of us worked from home to avoid the virus, Chris and his team had to grow to meet demand which posed its own obstacles. Amazon had to devise and implement procedures to keep their workforce in the Fulfilment Centres, but also keep them safe.

This meant increasing the hygiene protocols, spacing out workers where possible and once it was implemented, testing for staff. Chris says a number of these changes will be staying for good. The increased hygiene levels and spacing will be there to stay, but Amazon has also kept flexible working for all who can, so they can still work from home.

We asked Chris what he thought was needed to succeed in business in today's world:

"Business leaders need to be able to develop other leaders and take seriously their role in coaching them. They need to be adaptable in the current climate and be able to work in new environments. To succeed, you always need to seek opportunities to improve and to pursue knowledge that does not have immediate gain."

After speaking with both Chris and Peter, it is clear that the effects of the pandemic are widespread and many of them were unforeseen. Lots of jobs changed very quickly and although some have returned to their pre-Covid nature, many roles and industries have retained some of the changes for the future.



HOPE FOR JUSTICE | 4 PILLARS OF WORK

PREVENTING EXPLOITATION

Through education and community empowerment, we help families and vulnerable people protect themselves against traffickers and the deceptive methods they use to control others.

RESCUING VICTIMS

Our investigators and outreach teams work with law enforcement and other agencies to identify victims of modern slavery, build bridges of trust with them and get them safely out of exploitation.

RESTORING LIVES

We provide world-class survivor aftercare. Our legal advocacy and support ensures needs are met and gives the best chance for justice to be done.

REFORMING SOCIETY

We train others on the front line – police, healthcare workers, charities and more – to spot the signs of modern slavery and to respond effectively. We work with governments and businesses to make change happen.

Neil's Hopeful career

From Double Maths and Economics to charity work aimed at ending modern day slavery is an unusual journey. But it is one made by **NEIL COSSEY** (1988), and what a journey it has been...



AFTER moving from Harrogate in Year 6, Neil recalls having greatly enjoyed his time at King's, and particularly appreciated that it taught him how to think, and to constantly dig further if there was a question to be asked, never just accepting the way things were. This was a good fit with his mathematical bent – he still recalls that teacher Geoff Laurence had a huge impact on his thinking in the subject, and indeed 'how would Mr Laurence have explained this?' was a common theme when helping his sons with their maths homework!

After 'the worst interview of my life' at Cambridge – he didn't get an offer – Neil eventually went to York University, initially to read Maths and Economics, but quickly changed to Pure Maths. And in hindsight, he feels this was definitely the right decision, and he went on to enjoy the 'best three years' of his life whilst at York.

After university, Neil gravitated to accountancy, deliberately choosing a smallish firm in Manchester, Panel Ker Foster, thinking he would get a greater range of opportunities rather than with one of the big boys. After seven years with them, he moved to work in corporate finance with a number of large companies, including Capita and Serco, before deciding it was time for a change. It had always been the people he worked with that

mattered most to Neil – though he will never forget not being able to formally say goodbye to colleagues on his final day at Serco, because it coincided with an emergency evacuation; the office was opposite Manchester Arena, and Neil's final day was when the horrendous 2017 bomb attack occurred.

He had come to feel that chasing profit and bonuses wasn't for him, and that it was time to move to the 'third sector', where his hard work could benefit those who needed it most. Neil joined 'Hope for Justice' as their Chief Finance Officer. The charity works globally to prevent modern day slavery, whether in the UK or USA, Cambodia, Uganda or Ethiopia, with a mission 'to bring an end to modern slavery by preventing exploitation, rescuing victims, restoring lives and reforming society'. Neil provides the corporate experience on the charity's board, to complement a range of different areas of experience.

There is a huge amount to be done, and modern slavery covers many different forms, from the sale of children in Ethiopia, Uganda and Cambodia to people being used in effect as commodities in countries like the UK and the USA. Problems are often multi-dimensional, and might relate to language difficulties, passport and legal status issues and chaotic personal finances, for example. It can involve people

working in factories, but having to give income direct to captors, home working for no wages, or children working down mines – all current common forms of slavery. Any war or conflict situation also generates new opportunities for unscrupulous traffickers to operate. Whilst others in the charity team have the expertise to make decisions about where and how the resources available can have the most impact, Neil's crucial role is to maximise how far the money generated can stretch.

One of the things Neil remembers from his King's days is that there is always more than one point of view; and that you need to have all the facts and angles to be able to make the right decision, even if the final choice ultimately comes down to you. That remains at least as much the case in the charity world he now inhabits as it does elsewhere.



To find out more, go to:
www.hopeforjustice.org

90 years of Rugby

This year has seen the celebration of 90 years of rugby at King's. In September, former players and coaches from down the decades came together for a fabulous rugby festival, with several former pupils who have gone on to play for their country joining the celebrations. Here, we give you a glance of the School's rugby story throughout the decades.



From the very first King's XV rugby team (top), to a selection of teams throughout the years, and some of the former pupils and coaches who attended our celebrations for 90 years of rugby

1920s and 30s

Mr Fox and Mr Taylor joined the school as Masters and argued for rugby to be introduced to the school at a time it focused on football. In 1929, the games committee of the time allocated Tuesday nights to rugby, teaching the fundamentals of the game. Their first practice match was against Manchester Grammar's 2nd XV, whom we beat 15–6.

After the success of the practices and the enthusiasm of the boys, the games committee changed their winter sport from football to rugby for the 1930–31 season.

In the second season, rugby was proving popular with the staff, with more volunteering to coach and play. In the 1932–33 season, a Colts XV was formed and the first seven-a-side success was recorded at a schoolboy's competition at Wilmslow. The end of the season saw Mr Taylor say goodbye as well as the Headmaster, Mr Evans, who had championed the sport. T.T. Shaw took over with help from Mr Arnold and Mr Squibbs.

1940s and 50s

Under the supervision of Mr Squibbs and Mr Harvey, the boys presented an extremely strong team for many seasons. This led to the 'magnificent seven' who won the Manchester Sevens tournament for the first time. During the war years, the fixture list changed slightly and games were added playing the services teams, including a series of Paratroop teams from Ringway. The 1954 season saw King's welcome Mr Farwell as rugby master and the following season an Under-13 team was formed. Mr Farwell handed the reins over to Mr Griffin in 1959.

1960s and 70s

The fixture list for the school grew with six new schools being added. In 1960, Mr Cooke took over until 1962, when Dai Jones started his ten-year tenure. In 1963, King's launched an Under-12 team. The decade ended

with the school's first rugby tour, to Ireland. The tour was free to all of the boys and a Rugby Parents Committee was formed, raising finances for all of the tours over the next few years. Robin Pinder took over King's rugby in 1971 season, followed in 1973 by Peter Mathews. There were a few tough seasons for King's rugby, but soon the tide started to turn, 1974–75 seeing 19 wins in 25 games, and in 1977, the prestigious national Oxford 7s being won, in fact the day after having lost in the Rosslyn Park national schools 7s.

1980s and 90s

1982 saw Steve Smith (1969), a former pupil, capped for England; he later became captain. Reg Davenport joined the school as Master of rugby, and he oversaw a second victory at the Oxford 7s, in 1988.

The 1980s also saw the purchase of Derby Fields, the playing fields being solely dedicated in winter to rugby. They were opened by Headmaster Alan Cooper and the local MP in 1984, and became the home of King's rugby. 1989 saw the first ever major overseas rugby tour, an ambitious venture to Singapore, Australia and New Zealand, with a beefed-up Parents' Sports Tours Committee raising major funds for financial assistance for pupils involved.

In 1994 Paul Halewood took charge of rugby, being assisted with the 1st XV by John Percival. The team was awarded *Rugby World* Team of the Month twice in 1995 and 1996. They also undertook two incredible tours to Canada, in 1995 and 1998.

2000s

The 1999–2000 season saw a tremendous tour to Singapore, Australia and South Africa. Following this, a new master of Rugby, Andy Rice, joined the school in 2002.

In the Quincentenary year, two very special tours took place with the 1st team and under-13s taking separate tours to Canada to mark a special year. March 2005 saw the 1st team awarded *Rugby World*

Team of the Month again, and win the highly competitive Sedbergh 10s Tournament. 2006 was an unbeaten season for the 1st team, and they were awarded another *Rugby World* Team of the month. By this time, Mark Harbord was also involved at 1st XV level. And success was not limited to the 1st XV, with the U15s getting to the Twickenham final of the *Daily Mail* Vase in 2009.

2010s

In 2011, Guy Mason (1991), a former King's pupil took over. His first full season saw the 1st team have another unbeaten season, and gain another Team of the Month award in October 2012, a year which was topped off with a tour to Canada, as well as a famous victory over Sedbergh, 24–13. Paul Bartle, as well as Reg Davenport again, also had 1st XV involvement. Cameron Redpath represented Scotland U16s and has now had two caps for Scotland in the Six Nations, while both Teddy and Ollie Leatherbarrow represented Scotland at U16 and U20s respectively. Sevens rugby also enjoyed a win at last at Rosslyn Park, in 2016. Guy Mason was then succeeded by Giles Heatherington.

2020s

Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, 2020 saw very little rugby and no external matches. However, this meant students came back to the 2021–22 season with a new energy and we launched the season with a celebration of 90 years of rugby at King's. In 2021, the U16s won the county championships, coached by Matt Thorp, a former pupil. In February 2022, the U14 squad were crowned 'Northern Champions' and have qualified for the National Rugby Finals under former England U16 national coach Steve Burnage. The U14 boys are considered one of the best rugby teams ever to come out of King's.

2023 hopes to see a touring group of around 30 students going to New Zealand and Hong Kong.

Medics Around the World

The Coronavirus pandemic drove a surge in demand for places to study Medicine at university and resulted in the Government providing additional funding for Medical and Dentistry places in 2021. Here, we shine a light on some of the former pupils who have chosen to become doctors, along with one of our current students applying for Medicine.



DR VICKY HIGSON
Head of ICU Department
& Consultant Anaesthetist
Tauranga Hospital
New Zealand



Vicky left King's in 1992 and went to study Medicine at The University of Leeds, which she chose as it is attached to one of the largest teaching hospitals in Europe.

When Vicky was in primary school, they did an exercise on what you wanted to be when you grew up. Vicky's response was a nurse, and she recalls teacher Mr Gee saying she was too smart and should be a doctor; and her future was set! She knew the most important qualities to be a doctor would be compassion and kindness.

Vicky's career has taken her all over the world, with her settling in New Zealand and working her way to being the Head of ICU. Vicky says she was drawn to being an anaesthetist and ICU specialist as it allows her to thrive on the adrenaline and be very practical; being hands on was always what Vicky loved about the job. She says it is also where she had to overcome her greatest fear of doing something wrong and hurting the patient, but for that she says 'you must trust in your training.'

The worst part for Vicky has been the long hours and missing out on family events, but 'the good parts by far outweigh the negatives.' Vicky says one of the most important elements is managing the stress levels and the balance of work and home life.

And Vicky's advice to future doctors: "Go for it and enjoy it! Do not forget to be you. Never be afraid to ask questions or ask for help. We were all in your position once. Find the speciality you love as you spend an awful lot of time at work and if you don't enjoy it, you'll spend a lot of time miserable."



DR RICHARD WEST
Chairman of Dispensing
Doctors Association



School Captain **Richard** (1988) went on to study Medicine at the University of Manchester. After achieving a medical degree in 1993, he became a House Officer in vascular surgery and orthopaedics at Hope Hospital, Salford.

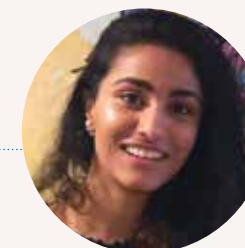
During his career, Richard has set up a pharmacy, trained over 20 GP registrars, taught paramedics, nurses, medical studies and FY2s as well as negotiated a PMS contract and set a Primary Care Network. In 1995, Richard achieved a Diploma in Child Health from the Royal College of Paediatrics and a Diploma in Geriatric Medicine from the Royal College of Physicians in 1996. Richard has also produced several medical publications, purely for academic stimulation, including titles such as 'Are General Practitioners Equipped to Manage a Cardiac Arrest?' and 'The Role of an Orthopaedic Pre-operative Clinic.'

Richard has been a GP since 1997, and has been very successful in his field, achieving roles including; Clinical Director of Primary Care Network in Blackburn, Director of Pharmacy which he established and has managed since 1997, Chairman of the Dispensing Doctors Associations and also the Suffolk Local Medical Committee. Richard also worked as a SHO in West Suffolk Hospital in A&E, Paediatrics, Geriatrics and Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, Richard ran a mass vaccination drive-through clinic – his team administered 2,814 Astra Zeneca vaccines over 7 hours, with 202 slots every 30 minutes, each injection taking an average of 53 seconds.



DR AIMAN ASLAM
Final year medicine student at Cambridge



Aiman (2016) studied Medicine at Downing College, Cambridge University and is now in her final year. The course at Cambridge is known for being entirely pre-clinical for the first three years with minimal patient contact. This initially worried Aiman, but in hindsight Aiman is so grateful for the grounding it gave her.

Unfortunately, the pandemic stopped Aiman being able to do her 4th year placement which meant she had to hit the ground running in her 5th year. Aiman will go on to do her Foundation training which will include five or six specialities. She has already completed a student block in Oncoplastic Surgery at Addenbrookes Hospital and a breast surgery and anaesthetics placement in the North West.

This led to writing some research papers, the findings of which Aiman has now had the opportunity to present at some international conferences. Aiman's next challenge, after finishing her final exams, is a place on the Academic Foundation Programme in London. This has a specific rotation dedicated to clinical research, which is an integrated academic training programme for those looking to work as both a clinician and scientist.

Aiman says: "I view Medicine as a marathon – the training pathways can be long, and I don't feel that there is as much of a pressure to get through all the hurdles as quickly as possible nowadays."



NOHAN ALIAS
Future medic:
King's Year 13 student



Nohan has always dreamed of becoming a doctor and is currently taking A-Levels in Chemistry, Biology and Maths in preparation for studying Medicine. Nohan has applied to Oxford, Birmingham, Bristol and Nottingham and is hoping that Birmingham will be the one, as "the mix of theory and practical learning is from day one."

Nohan has been around medicine since a young age, with both his parents working in a hospital. He has seen how rewarding the work can be and it has taught him that the most important skills he needs are empathy, communication and teamwork.

Nohan doesn't yet know which field of medicine he would like to follow, but currently has an interest in either trauma or a surgical specialist in the Army. We wish him the best of luck with his future dreams.



IN PROFILE...

Charting

a course to Paris 2024

We last featured talented sailor and Olympian **ELLIOT HANSON** in *King's Speech* in 2016, at which point he was on the brink of qualifying to represent GB in Sailing at the Rio Olympics. So how have things gone for him since then?

LIFE hasn't been plain sailing over the past 6 years for talented **Elliot Hanson** (2012), but he's still steering his way in a winning direction.

He didn't quite make the cut for Rio, even though he had achieved remarkable successes despite only moving into senior sailing at the age of 21, so he set his sights on a new ambition – the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Sadly, the global Covid pandemic meant a postponement until 2021, but Elliot did, indeed, do incredibly well to qualify for the Tokyo games, after lots of ups and downs in competition en route.

In the 2016 piece, we said 'perhaps resilience is the characteristic most required for a sailor, even of Elliot's standard' and that proved pretty accurate with regard to his experiences up to, and including, the Tokyo regatta.

Sailing in the Laser class – as

the famous Ben Ainslie before him – Elliot had lots of podium finishes pre-Tokyo, including Gold in 2018 at an event held on the same Tokyo waters as the Games would be, and his first European title in 2020. But he also suffered horrendous knee and ankle injuries, which resulted in lots of precious time out from sailing.

Then, at Tokyo itself, he managed, towards the end of the Laser series, to fall foul of the judges on technicalities, after improving his race placings to such an extent that, had he not been disqualified – he strongly disagreed with the decision – he would have actually had a chance of competing for a medal in the final race. Disappointing, obviously – but he did make it as an Olympian, which is not an achievement to be downplayed.

So what of the future? The 2024 Paris Olympics are clearly on the horizon. Now aged 27, though, Elliot has already had success in big team sailing, as a member of the British team that won the Youth America's Cup in 2017. So maybe that is the way he will go? Watch this space!



Musician and avid Beatles fan **BLAKE RICHARDSON** has landed the role of a lifetime playing legend Sir Paul McCartney in upcoming film *'Midas Man'* a biopic charting the career of Brian Epstein, the Fab Four's manager

Let it Be Blake!

BLAKE Richardson's passion for music and performing was clear throughout his entire time at King's. From music exams to musicals, if it was performing arts Blake was there.

Blake left King's after his GCSEs in 2016, gaining all As and Bs – a fantastic effort as he spent most of his study leave on a tour bus with his band, New Hope Club (NHC), which was the opening act for 'The Vamps'.

Blake formed NHC (pictured right) in 2015 with George Smith; third member, Reece Bibby, joined after he was on the 2014 season of *The X Factor*. The Pop/Rock trio's first recording was a cover of 'Wake Up' by The Vamps, which led The Vamps to sign NHC to their label Steady Records while Blake was still at King's. NHC went on to support The Vamps on three UK/Europe tours and on their 2018 USA tour.

This all led to New Hope Club's debut 4 song EP 'Welcome to the Club' which was released in May 2017

and spent 10 weeks on the Billboard Next Big Sound Chart, peaking at number 5. As the popularity of the trio grew, it allowed them to headline their own shows at the O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire in London in June 2018



which sold out. The popularity and professionalism of the trio led them to diversify the work they do, writing and recording two of the songs on the 'Early Man' movie soundtrack in 2018.

The trio released their first album in February 2020, just before the pandemic hit, and it reached number five in the UK charts which was a fantastic achievement. They will be looking to tour with the new album in

2022, followed by a second album planned to be released later in 2022.

Blake has been a true fan of The Beatles from a young age and, in 2021, he secured a dream role. Blake has been cast as Sir Paul McCartney in the upcoming movie *'Midas Man'* a biopic of Brian Epstein and his career.

We look forward to seeing the movie, and if you are around Liverpool in 2022, look out for them filming. The below statement was released by the band:

"Blake Richardson is one third of British band New Hope Club, signed globally to Hollywood Records. Playing to sold out shows across multiple continents, including over quarter of a million people across 17 countries in 2019 alone, together with his band mates Reece Bibby and George Smith, Blake has amassed over 700 million streams, 226 million video views, 8 million followers in overall social reach to date and a UK Top 5 debut album. *'Midas Man'* is Blake's theatrical debut."

IN PROFILE

What makes

Adrian
TikTok?

We caught up with **ADRIAN MULRYAN** (1995), who is Global Agency Development Leader at the phenomenally successful social media platform TikTok



“I genuinely believe in the platform. You don't check TikTok; you watch it. People are watching more TikTok than they are Netflix.”

Tell us about your career since leaving King's

I left King's in 1995 and went to the University of Huddersfield, to study marketing. At the time, the internet was just starting and I was really interested in the internet. I decided that to do what I wanted to focus on, I needed to move to London, so I did. I started working for a company called Real Media and they just wanted someone who was good with people and knew how to use Excel.

After two and a half years, I moved to work for MSN, and started to work with advertising agencies, which on the whole, get a bad reputation, but I enjoy working with them so it has become a big feature of my career.

I moved to work for Wannado which became the Orange portal for the phone network. I continued to work with agencies and on their digital marketing. I then took a role with Doubleclick, which was the

number one company for advertising technology for display advertising. Four months after I joined, Google bought the company, so I had a few roles within the company in the UK. After getting married we were able to fulfil a dream of living in the USA as I took another job with Google in New York. We said we would do no less than two years, and no more than four, but we have now been here eight years, and have two American children!

I started to not feel as challenged at Google so I started to look around to see what else was out there. The company that jumped out to me was TikTok; I thought it was really exciting how it is disrupting the way advertising is consumed.

What's your role with Tik Tok & what do you enjoy most about it?

My role is to work with WPP, which is the largest media group in the

world, and try to educate the team on why TikTok is a great medium for them to spend advertising budgets for their brands. My role has three integral parts; firstly, to help agencies understand why TikTok is a great medium, secondly, to help them understand how to activate and how to get the most out of the platform as an advertising medium, and thirdly, to demonstrate how we have audiences that will engage with their brands.

I genuinely believe in the platform. You don't check TikTok; you watch it. People are watching more TikTok than they are Netflix.

What are your fondest memories of King's?

I don't think we realised quite how lucky we were! Some of my fondest memories include the rugby tour to Canada in 1995 which was an incredible opportunity to travel as I had never left Europe before that point. It was a great community,

where you were allowed to make mistakes.

Any particular teachers who stand out in your memory?

On an education perspective, G.P. Wilson was really inspirational and some of the books he had us read I still read back to this day. Dai Jones and Tis Bevon were incredible as rugby coaches, too. And Ian Wilson was a fantastic teacher and coach. He really drove me to want to do marketing at university.

Aside from academic qualifications, what did King's teach you that you use in your everyday life?

It taught me about teams and the harmony that is needed. It is one of the most important factors I have learnt along with listening. Although many of the teachers, if they remember me, will say I wasn't a great listener, but I have learnt as the years have gone by.

Is there anything you miss about England?

I don't miss London, but I miss England. I miss the culture, but definitely not the weather! I still have a lot of friends in Macclesfield and in London, so I miss them. We usually travel back four times a year, but, because of the pandemic, this hasn't been possible.

What mindset do you think is key to be successful in business now?

I think firstly, you need to commit to be a lifelong learner and find mentors from all walks of life who you can have a conversation with and to get good feedback. Acting on the feedback is critically important, to grow. Have a passion and follow it. Most importantly don't be afraid to make mistakes, you only really learn when you make a mistake.

Is there a philosophy you live by?

I like to learn what makes people tick and that helps you to work with them. Always be driven, you might not always be the best, but you can be the best version of yourself.

What would you say to current King's students?

You are really lucky, we didn't have this incredible facility so take every opportunity.

In TikTok HQ, what was the favourite moment from the pandemic as the platform grew?

New people are coming onto the platform everyday, but the people who excite us the most are not the famous people, but the creators. We think TikTok is a place where careers can be made, it is not about polished content, it is about being authentic.

From the Archive

After a package was recently sent to School, containing the original Scholarship Award for Fred Moffatt, we are able to share with you the life of one of our former pupils who was lost in the First World War and is listed on the School's War Memorial, now located in the Jackson Hall.

Fred Moffatt

War Hero (1914)

FRED MOFFATT was the only son of Buckley Frederick Moffatt and Mary Lomas.

He was born on 20 October 1895 in Sutton, Macclesfield. At the time of his son's birth, Buckley was headmaster of the National School in Sutton, which became St James' Church of England School, where he was head for 38 years.

Buckley attended the Modern Free Grammar school before it amalgamated with the Grammar School to form King's, and later went on to serve with distinction as a Town Councillor.

Fred was initially educated in Sutton under his father's regime until he was successful in following in his father's footsteps to attend King's. He was awarded, and accepted, the Foundation Scholarship in 1909, to attend for the rest of his schooling. While Fred attended King's, he made a real impression, creating quite

a name for himself on the football team, working his way up through the squads. He even went on to take part in a debate of football v cricket in the debating society about how the game is more superior as the whole team is involved all of the time. He also took the London Chamber of Commerce Examinations and received drawing and mathematics qualifications.

Fred left King's to join the Co-operative Wholesale Society in Manchester as a clerk in the invoice department based on Balloon Street, Manchester.

At the outbreak of World War 1, Fred's life changed; there was a recruitment drive and he volunteered to sign up. He enrolled in the Army in September 1914, joining the 20th Royal Fusiliers (3rd Public School Battalion), which was largely recruited from graduates of Manchester University and local Grammar Schools.

After joining the Army, Fred went off to do his basic training at Platts Field in Manchester, until late 1914. He then travelled down to Tidworth with his Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers to continue his training.

While based in Tidworth, before leaving England, he was a member of the team which won the 33rd Divisional Cross-Country Championship. The Battalion was deployed to France in November 1915 and Fred was a designated signaller. This meant that he was responsible for providing signal communications between the front line and the Company H.Q.

He continued to fight on the front line until July 1916 without any furlough or leave from the trenches. On 20 July 1916, at the age of 20 and just three years after leaving King's, Fred was reported as missing in action. He went missing during the battle for High Wood, North East of Bazentin-le-petit.



ABOVE: 20th Royal Fusiliers, 3rd Battalion; last day of training at Tidworth before deployment to France, November 1915. RIGHT (top): School Scholarship certificate. RIGHT (below): War Office confirmation of identity, 1933.

High Wood was a site of battles for almost three months from 14 July 1916, with the Allied forces eventually coming out on top, and it was noted as one of the most important battles of the Somme.

A request for further information on Fred's whereabouts was published in the *London Daily News* of 25 August 1916. Unfortunately, this did not reveal any information and he remained as missing in action for 17 years.

Fred's body was recovered in 1933 from an unmarked grave at the battle site. At the time of the battle, a timber cross was erected in memorial to those who fell from his Battalion, the 20th Royal Fusiliers.

This was later removed and in 1988 an oak tree was planted with a small plaque commemorating the fallen from the Battalion. Fred's body was identified by the second half of his identity tag, which he had kept in his uniform and matched the War Office

records. This tag was later returned to his family and he was honoured with a proper burial on 29 September 1936 in Ovillers Military Cemetery, Ovillers La Boisselle, Hauts-de-France, France.

Fred was posthumously awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal on 9 June 1922. His service and sacrifice are honoured on the King's School War Memorial, the Co-Operative War Memorial in Manchester, St Georges Church Macclesfield, The Macclesfield Town Hall Book of Remembrance, the Park Green War Memorial and the Sutton War Memorial.

The story of Fred Moffatt is even more prominent due to the fact that his great nephew, Dr Richard Crowder, attended King's between 1962–1971 and he continues to engage with the School through career talks and keeping Fred's memory alive.



Let's get Connected!



WE recently launched an exclusive online network for King's alumni, former staff and parents. We understand that now, more than ever, it is important to be connected, and **King's Connect** is so much more than just a network.

Here are some of the benefits you can enjoy by joining **King's Connect**:

- Keep in touch and re-connect with friends and teachers
- Join specific clubs relevant to 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
- Plus so much more!

An alumni network is only as good as the members within it and will take some time to reach its full potential. We encourage you (our members) to help King's Connect grow by sharing the network on social media and by inviting your friends and contemporaries to join as well as posting your stories and photos and starting conversations.

It is easy to join; simply create a profile, find and invite friends and get posting!

To join King's Connect,
scan the QR code
below or visit:
www.connect.kingsmac.co.uk



SCAN
ME!



Be a King's Ambassador!

Are you a former pupil who would like to play a more active and involved role?

The **King's Ambassador Programme** is designed for people who are still in touch with the School and a number of their peers, and who are eager to help the school grow its alumni community.

If you are happy to help share news from the school and promote events, then you could be an ambassador for your year group.

Please get in contact with Jenny Armitage, Alumni and Development Manager:
former.pupils@kingsmac.co.uk

Bursary & Hardship Funds

SUPPORTING
KING'S

More than five centuries ago, King's founder Sir John Percyvale gifted a chantry school in his home town of Macclesfield.

The school was established shortly after Sir John's death through his legacy, in 1502, and the school has been underpinned by philanthropy ever since.

Over the last decade, the school has received over £300,000 gifted in the wills of our supporters which has contributed significantly to the school's Bursary Fund.

Over the last year, we have received a further three legacy pledges as well as an additional three new members to the Percyvale Legacy

Society. This society has been formed to recognise (during their lifetime) those who have pledged to support the school in their wills. Leaving a gift in a will is a simple and tax-efficient way of making a significant donation that many would be unable to afford during their lifetime.

Leaving a gift

Former pupil **DAVID ARMSTRONG (1960)** explains why he decided to leave a gift for future generations by donating to the School over decades ...

David Armstrong (1960) lives in Alberta, Canada and has been a long-term supporter of the School's Bursary Fund, making multiple donations over recent years. Here, David talks about his career and motivation for donating.

"The best start in life comes from one's family and education. While at King's, I benefited from inspired teachers. At Birmingham University, I graduated with a BA (Hons) in French spending 18 months in France.

Pursuing a goal of organizational efficiency, I worked on management and financial information systems for railway electrification, food manufacturing and distribution, hospital administration, vehicle licencing, and personnel management. Some of these projects were for Unilever, Hewlett-Packard and the Royal Canadian Mint; other projects took me to France, Brazil and Algeria.

Studies in accounting, computing and management consulting led to my professional qualifications.

Based in Alberta Treasury Board and Finance, I framed government-wide policies and funding levels for information technology with participation in the budget committee of Cabinet. I then established budget standards and systems to compile the provincial budget for 100 entities while complying with their legislation.

My wife and I agreed not to suggest a particular career to our children, just that they should be passionate about it, do the best they can, and keep learning. So, we were surprised when our daughter became an accountant and our son went into computing. We enjoy time with our adult children and their children, while keeping healthy, enjoying the outdoors and learning something every day.

Our head start in life was provided by earlier generations. So our belief is, shouldn't we do the same for future generations?"

For more information on donating, leaving a legacy or to let us know of a pledge, please see the school's website or contact:
former.pupils@kingsmac.co.uk



SCHOOL NEWS

Little Shop of Horrors success



The macabre comic romp 'The Little Shop of Horrors' delighted packed audiences in the first Senior School production at the new campus. The plot of Menken and Ashman's Sixties nightmare musical centres on an ever more bloodthirsty, man-eating plant that makes short work of the ingénues and misfits that try to profit from its murderous quirks.

The multi-faceted production was a

celebration of fabulous acting skills from a cast spanning Years 9–13. Starry-eyed, yet ultimately doomed, young sweethearts Audrey and Seymour were played by Jen Rutley and Angus Rutherford. This spoof horror had its share of malevolent wrong doers, and Ben O'Donnell turned the ruthless dentist Orin into a figure of contempt with a charismatic display. Rory McCabe too, as the unsuspecting store-owner, Mr Mushnik, milked every sweet and sour nuance from his performance.

Off stage, it was the voice of the plant Toby Fraser who raised the tone from peculiar to menacing to devastating with perfect pitch. The puppeteers inside the impressive and ever-increasing stage plant synced perfectly with his mesmerising tones.

They formed just part of a wonderful cast and musical backdrop with a 12-piece band directed by Ian Crawford doing full justice to the show's many standards.

U14 Rugby Squad earn national semi-final place



In February, King's U14 rugby side blazing their way to the 'North of England' Champions title and earned themselves a place at the national semi-final.

Under former MRUFC and England U16 national coach Steve Burnage, the boys in blue are one of the best rugby teams ever to come out of King's.

The Northern final saw a convincing win against Shropshire's Ellesmere College in a 48–7 win, with the King's lads never off the front foot. Earlier rounds saw the squad beat a 'who's who' of the Northern schools' rugby circuit with a 39–12 win against Kirkham Grammar School in the semi-final and a 30–0 against Queen Elizabeth Grammar School (QEGS) Wakefield in the quarter-final, making up for their one defeat in 20 matches this season. Earlier there was a stunning 60–15 win against local rivals St Ambrose College, with a 55–5 win against Bishop Heber School from Chester in their first game.

An amazing 12 squad members have also been selected for the Sale RUFC Player Development Pathway.

The article in last year's *King's Speech* on the fire in the School Hall in 1959 generated five interesting responses, as below:

Chris Brooks (1962) admitted to having been the stage electrician at the time. He was very relieved when it was established that the fire was not his fault! Chris was in the first intake into the Junior School in 1950, and left 11 years later for Oxford University.

Brian Lovell (1960) also wrote that he was in the Upper Sixth at the time, and having put his bike in the rack, news of the fire not having reached Swettenham before he left on 13 October 1959, he was surprised to see boys milling around the front entrance as he walked around the corner from the bike racks. The damage was not immediately apparent, and everyone had their own version of events, of course. In the event, the damage was bad, but could have been worse – Mr Haresign later told them that he had closed a door to the Hall when he had left late on the Saturday night.

"On that Monday morning, assembly was held where we were gathered, in the open air. For us older boys, it was goodbye forever to the Hall, no more daily assemblies there, or school plays, or exams, or raucous school dances in those early days of rock 'n' roll! Since we all went to school on public transport, or walked, or biked, we were already dressed for the weather, so holding outside assemblies from then on wasn't an issue.

The Headmaster continued his welcome habit of making the religious element of assembly both pungent and brief. His favourite homily came from the Philippians: '—whatsoever things are of good report — think on those things'. When T.T. Shaw spoke, about fires or quoting St Paul, you concentrated. Especially on Monday 13 October 1959."



Juan Cunliffe (1957) referred specifically to the content of the article: "On p14, (photo above) the steel frame suspended from the roof timbers was the lighting box for the switches and dimmers controlling the stage lighting; in my role as staging/lighting man, I sat there during performances! The vertical ladder providing access is shown in the top right hand image on p14. Originally the lighting controls were located at stage level, but Horace moved them in 1953–54. The left hand image on p15 is a view from beneath the stage floor joists. Interestingly the stage floor was 'raked' to make actors more visible for the audience". Juan explained that he developed an interest in staging and lighting while at King's that he then took well into adult life.

CORRESPONDENCE CORNER



Peter Ginnings (1964) joined King's in U4A in Sept. 1959, and vividly recalls the days after the fire when the clearance and rebuilding was taking place. He was very keen on drama, and involved in the annual school play and G&S production for several years. Initially they were transferred to the Canteen, with actors entering through the kitchens, but Peter stressed that the new Hall was an absolute delight to work in. "The stage was the opposite end to that in the original Hall, we had better lighting to work with, and audiences had much better seating. Sadly, though, there was not much back stage space. I recall using the stage store below the Hall as a hang out, and enjoying the new sixth form block – where we played endless games of Bridge during breaks".

Nick Rushbrooke (1965) also recalls the fire, especially the "inspection of the ashes" on the Monday morning. He also mentioned the crane driver who became quite a celebrity around the school when the rebuild began; 'he was able to control the tower crane with a cabled remote – very hi-tech for those days!'

£1m sports pavilions campaign to be launched

The School has had an exciting few years recently, with the new campus being opened, welcoming a new Headmaster and changing to a fully co-educational structure; as well as adjusting to new ways of life with Covid.

We are now moving on and looking to the future, which also has exciting events on the horizon. The first of these is the launch of a Sports Fundraising Campaign to augment the state-of-the-art sports facilities. Subject to approval



by the Governing body in the summer, the School hopes to build a large sports pavilion next to the two Astro pitches,

which will contain changing rooms, a lounge and large spectator viewing platform. The second pavilion we hope to build is a cricket pavilion on the Wilson Field, to host cricket events and changing facilities.

More information on the proposed campaign will be shared via our **King's Connect** platform over the coming months.

There has been an increased volume of general correspondence from former pupils this year, on a wide range of topics – **Brian Evans**, on the old school library and 'reading aloud'; **Phil Clowes** and **Ben Jordan**, on the naming of facilities on the new site; **Aswad Khan** on the honour of being 'capped' by Bulgaria; **Keith Knott** on his time in southern Africa; **Andy Walker** on charity work post-retirement; **Graham Dilliway** on the effects of the pandemic on a project in the Ivory Coast; **Simon Biggs** on his art studio and on the late **Clive Wellings**. There have also been many comments following the deaths of **Graham Wilson** and **David Blamphin**. Given lack of space, these are posted online on the **King's Connect** portal.

Please go to: www.connect.kingsmac.co.uk



FONDFAREWELL

OBITUARIES

Barry Jones: Our much-loved President

Barry (1951) died in February 2022, aged 88. He was an extremely well-respected man in Macclesfield, as well as an absolute stalwart member of the Former Pupils' & Staff Association.

When he left King's, Barry went to train on the job with Mather and Platt in Manchester, and in due course qualified as a Chartered Accountant.

Then, after two years on national service in the RAF, and a period in further accounting positions in Manchester, he returned in 1967 to Macclesfield, first as a partner, and later senior partner, with Heywood Shepherd, the well-known firm of Chartered Accountants, where he remained until he retired.

Barry was heavily involved with many voluntary organisations in the town, and in virtually every case, he held elected office with them. These included as President of the Park Green and Old Boys club, President of Probus, Chair of Round Table, and President of Rotary.

He was a keen sportsman, playing both rugby (Macclesfield RUFC 2nd XV

captain) and cricket (Maxonians CC), as well as actively supporting both Macclesfield Town FC and Macclesfield Cricket Club. At the rugby club, he was the longest surviving club member, and former Treasurer, Secretary, Chairman and President, as well as doing some refereeing; no wonder the club had bestowed on Barry the position of Honorary Life Member.

As far as King's is concerned, Barry was hugely important in the way the school's Former Pupils' Association developed; indeed, during some difficult years, it would be no exaggeration to say that Barry, along with Alan Cooper and secretary at the time John Taylor, was instrumental in its survival into what eventually became a thriving association.

He was President for nearly 20 years, and gained huge respect from all with whom he came into contact in that role.

Barry was one of those few men about whom it could genuinely be said that no one had a bad word to say about him.

He recently had a room at the school's new site named after him. He will be greatly missed.



David G ('Dan') Blamphin

(Staff 1958–1995) died in November 2021, aged 86. He came to King's to teach Physics after taking an honours degree in Maths/Physics, and then an Education Diploma, at Manchester University. He became Head of Physics in 1963 and then, on the retirement of biologist Keith Waterman, Head of Science in 1981. Dan was always highly respected as an effective teacher, and helped found orienteering at King's.

Rory Burke (2010) died tragically young in November 2020 aged 28.

John Eccles (1960) died in November 2021, aged 78. He left King's to join a firm of industrial valuers in Manchester, and later qualified as a Chartered Surveyor, in due course running his own Surveyors/Estate Agents business with offices in Knutsford, Wilmslow, Holmes Chapel and Middlewich. He was also a keen sportsman.



Dr John Pattison (Staff 1996–2013) died in December 2021, aged 65. John immediately established himself at King's as a committed teacher, not only of Biology, but also of the children he came into contact via a range of extra-curricular involvement. A passionate biologist, his Animal House was an immense attraction to both pupils and visitors. His enthusiasm and knowledge influenced everyone he came into contact. His also contributed to the school's PHSE programme, and organised a Speakers Club and Crossfire meetings. He succeeded Chris Buckland as Head of Biology in 2006, and retired from teaching in 2013.

Fuller versions of tributes to the friends we said farewell to this past year are available at: www.connect.kingsmac.co.uk/news



Graham 'G.P.' Wilson

Legendary Macclesfield teacher, writer, raconteur and rugby man Graham Wilson died in 2021 at the age of 82. The inspirational former Head of English at King's and prolific chronicler of local life was a hugely popular figure in the town.

An original thinker, people's champion and firebrand orator, he was also passionately loyal to his wife of 56 years Tricia, his beloved Macclesfield and to the King's School for whom he worked for nearly 40 years.

Known to all as G.P., he was universally admired by everyone he taught in class and coached on the rugby field. G.P. went on to Durham University to follow in the family tradition to study Law.

However, his heart was not in the subject and he retrained to teach English, choosing the subject because he had won the English Prize at school, though then not allowed by his family to take such a frivolous subject at university.

His expertise and knowledge inspired some of his pupils to become Oxford Literature



G.P. Wilson by Robin Hidden, former art teacher at King's

Dons, West End actors, London advertising agency directors and professional rugby players both at home and abroad.

Indeed, Ian Curtis, the lead singer of Joy Division, said his fondest memories of school were of G.P.'s lessons.

Graham is survived by beloved wife Tricia, their daughter Jane, a teacher and educationalist living in Yorkshire and son Paul, an Oxford historian who is now an author

Jerry Duffy (1959) died in April 2019. After Birmingham University, he qualified as a solicitor. He first undertook local authority work on the Wirral, and later became a very senior solicitor for British Waterways.

Rod GARNER (1960) died in 2020, aged 77. He left King's to go to work with his father, who was the local NFU representative, and then had a long and successful career in the Engineering Insurance business. He worked for

Cornhill and, living in Surrey, was able to regularly indulge his love for cricket by watching a great deal of the test cricket that his firm sponsored for many years. On retirement, Rod moved to Devon, where his greatest passion, steam railways, came to the fore. He had two books published, on 'The Torrington and Marland Light Railway' and 'Bideford, Westward Ho! and Appledore Railway', and was Chairman of the Tarka Valley Railway, formed in 2008.

Ian Ogden (1951) died in 2020, aged 89. He lived on the Isle of Man, having moved there from Surrey. He had a great affection for King's, and until shortly before his death had kept in touch with a few fellow former pupils and some well-respected former teachers too.

Malcolm Sherratt (1950) died in September 2021, aged 88. After leaving King's, he started work in Bollington in the textile industry before moving to The Barracks Fabrics Printing Co., where he began as a textile technician and ended as Managing Director. Malcolm always championed the cause of young people in industry, and became a leading member of The Courtaulds Group Committee for the Education of Young People. In 1988 he became Chief Executive of the Courtaulds Archive based in London, and he eventually retired in 1992, after 32 years service to the group. At King's, he is perhaps best remembered as Captain of Boxing, as well as welterweight boxing champion.

James 'Ron' LOMAS (1942) died aged 93 in April 2020. He left to become a 'Bevan Boy' during WW2, and then went into engineering, retiring in 1991 as chief design engineer for V & E Friedland, manufacturers of bell pushes. Drum-major in the school's army cadet force, Ron became a multi-instrumentalist, playing mainly tenor sax in local big bands. He later had his own 4-piece dance band which was, for example, resident band at the Dixon Arms, Chelford and at Hollin Hall, Kerridge. He was also a life member of the Lancastrian Theatre Organ Trust.

Max Essayan (1952) died in March 2021, aged 87. He was a particularly notable cricketer at school, captaining the 1st XI for two consecutive years in 1951 and 1952. Max's son Stephen was at King's until he left for Cambridge to read Economics in 1979.

EVENTS ROUND-UP

Netball tournament

In September, we welcomed 21 alumnae who formed three teams of players. They played in a tournament against our current first team. All of the players then stayed for tours and lunch at the new campus.



Over-60s lunches

We held two very successful alumni lunches in September and December – the first was held at the Legh Arms in Prestbury, and the second at the School campus. Both were well-attended and saw alumni sharing stories of their time at King's.

Hockey & Pizza

On the last Friday before Christmas, 22 former pupils come to the new campus to face the current King's boys' and girls' teams. A great evening was had by all, with three matches played followed by drinks and pizza.

Christmas Charity Rugby

Between Christmas and New Year, we held the annual King's v MRUFC match at Priory Park. King's presented 28 players and came out victorious although it was close at the end. Thank you to everyone who came down to support the East Cheshire Hospice.

Golf Update

The **Alan McInnes Memorial Bursary Golf Day** took place in June 2021. The event saw 64 players compete at Prestbury Golf Club, followed by dinner, a raffle and speeches. The day's winning team was led by former pupil **Tom Parfett-Manning** (2006).

Two of the other three annual former pupil golf competitions also went ahead. First, in early May, Macclesfield Golf Club again hosted **The Frank Moore Trophy**. A pleasing 18 golfers competed, with newcomer **Tom Coghill** (2007) emerging as winner, with 38 points, in his debut event. Peter Watterson, a guest player, won the **Geoff Dakin Trophy** for the best score, on the first 9 holes.

In early July, Bramhall Golf Club saw the return of the annual interschools tournament. King's was only able to enter a team of 4, one fewer than desirable, but **Gordon Tebay** (1980), **Pete Davies** (1972) and **Rob Oehlcke** (1988) all scored well.

The final event was due to be the late-August annual match against Stockport GS for the **Howard Worth shield**, played at Knutsford Golf Club. Sadly, our opponents were unable to raise a team – but five King's players enjoyed an excellent afternoon's golf nevertheless, with **Gordon Tebay** emerging victorious!



The King's School in Macclesfield

Alderley Road, Prestbury,
Cheshire, SK10 4SP

www.kingsmac.co.uk

t: 01625 260000

e: mail@kingsmac.co.uk

Send your updates to
former.pupils@kingsmac.co.uk

STAY IN TOUCH!

Hundreds of former pupils use the school website and Facebook page to stay connected. There is a dedicated Former Pupils' area on the website, containing dates of forthcoming events, former pupils news, plus details of how to get involved and support the school. Please see: www.kingsmac.co.uk



SCAN
ME!

To keep connected, why not join our exclusive online network for King's alumni **King's Connect** – scan the QR code above or visit: www.connect.kingsmac.co.uk

 facebook.com/kingsinmaccfp

 You can follow us on Twitter at [@kingsmac](https://twitter.com/kingsmac)

 And also on [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/kingsmac)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2022

Frank Moore Trophy
6 May | Macclesfield Golf Club

Family Fun Walk
15 May | Departs from The King's School

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

Alumni Drinks on the Lawn
1 July | The King's School

Alumni Cricket Match, Wilson Field
4 July | New Wilson Field

Inter-old Boys Golf Competition
6 July | Bramhall Golf Club

Over 60s Lunches
6 June, 22 September & 15 December

Howard Worth Shield
8 September | Knutsford Golf Club

Alumnae Netball
10 September | The King's School

Question of Sport fundraising dinner
Autumn term – date tbc