



# King's Colours

1502

Summer 2022

The termly newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield



## A right royal celebration!

The King's School's Platinum Jubilee celebrations took the biscuit with a very special royal visit from Rudi the corgi.

A festive day of themed events included a right royal fancy dress competition, a garden party, an afternoon tea fit for a Queen and an assembly in which footage of King's own Royal Visit in 2002, to mark the school's Quincentenary, was shown.

However, it was a Pembroke Welsh Corgi called Rudi, whose proud owner is King's Year 5 teacher Emma Yoxall,

who was the star attraction as he visited every classroom and even starred in a special 'find the dog' treasure hunt.

Year 5 crown competition winner, Amelia Grace, (pictured) said: "The Queen is simply amazing and everyone loves her." While her fellow winner for his regal King's crown, Benjy Hutchinson, added: "The Queen has spread so much love and kindness not just in our country but across the world, and the United Kingdom should be very proud of her."

Principal of King's Infant & Junior Division Rachel Cookson said: "Rudi lived up to his billing as the star guest, was exceptionally polite and well-mannered and loved the attention from the children."

An afternoon tea was well-received by everyone, with Pam – the school's pastry chef – making nearly 1,000 scones, and hundreds of cupcakes featuring a photo of the Queen. Earlier in the week, pupils planted two trees as part of the Queen's Green Canopy project.

P3

IN THIS  
ISSUE...



Team  
engineers  
success



P  
4-5

Reach for  
the Stars in  
SPACE!



P6

Cricket  
victory



## HEAD'S UPDATE

**A** LOT has happened in School since our last edition of *King's Colours*, including the publication of the results of our full school inspection. Whilst we knew an inspection was on the horizon, schools only get 24 hours notice and so when you 'get the call' it always elevates the heart rate! We were judged to be fully compliant and 'Excellent' in all areas of school life, the highest possible rating, which represents an outcome of which we can all be proud.

The ISI report is well worth a read as it emphasises much of what we aspire to achieve through our school aims. In particular, it highlights that pupils have an extremely positive attitude to learning and demonstrate a high level of self-understanding, self confidence, discipline and resilience. We won't be resting on our laurels, and will use the report's positive impact to increase the momentum of forward development and into our Strategic Development Plan for the next five years. The document describing our plan, '*Making a Difference*' – now available to read on our website – is the result of a wide-ranging consultation process and outlines strategic priorities which have been identified and now form the basis for the School's further development. It signals an exciting time with plenty of ambition.

We continue to inch ever close to normality after the disruption of the last two years and a significant step has been the reintroduction of school trips. Every year group within the Junior section has now taken part in an overnight trip and, whilst some anxieties have been present (with this being the first stay away from home with school for many), the activities and excitement have been thoroughly enjoyed. Special mention must go to the Ski trip, which took pupils to Italy from across all Divisions. This trip had to be rearranged several times, yet everyone (staff in particular) coped incredibly well and the outing was a huge success.

As I write this introduction, pupils in Year 11 are 'deep' into GCSE exams and Year 13 A Level exams are underway. Hosting external exams is another 'first' on the new site and these pupils are coping with the intensity of an external exam period for the first time, given that external exams haven't happened for the last two years. They are well prepared and well placed to succeed. We will all look forward to receiving – and celebrating – their results in August. I am immensely proud of pupils as well as staff for the manner in which they have approached these exams under challenging circumstances.

This edition of *King's Colours* is a busy one; enjoy reading it, and thank you for your continued support of School.

**Jason Slack, Head of Foundation**



## Harry gives teachers the runaround!

Wheelchair athlete Harry Smith, in Year 9, introduced his teachers and classmates to his favourite sport on a day devoted to wheelchair basketball. Harry has been a hot shot at wheelchair basketball since he was just seven years old, and currently plays for Stoke Spitfires in the National League 3 Central Division and for the West Midlands at national level for the U15 team.

During the day, pupils in Years 7 – 10 were introduced to the sport Harry loves during PE and Games lessons. Chair and player coach of Stoke Spitfires, Andy Flower, brought down more than a dozen wheelchairs and gave coaching sessions to various age groups. Andy, who then



refereed a highly competitive Staff v Pupils match, said "The secret is to learn to move the chair and control the ball at the same time. It's a bit like tapping your head while rubbing your belly and, as Harry says, takes a lot of practice."

"I'd like to thank our coach Mr Flower, all my teachers and friends for taking time out to find out about my sporting passion," added Harry.

## Year 12 team engineer

A team of Year 12 students – Owen Branthwaite, Ananiel Antony, Holly McLellan, Charlie Parker, Milly Robertson and Vasee Vasantharajan – have completed the Gold Engineering Award and been nominated for a top national award in this year's Education Engineering Scheme competition thanks to a little help from one of Macclesfield's world-class companies.



# TRIP-tastic fun for Year 6 pupils



The raft-building involved two teams working against each other to build a substantial, pond-worthy raft with a race to the finish. They were given four barrels, six planks of wood and a crash course in rope tying to get them started. It was fantastic to watch the children collaborate, problem solve and use their initiative to build the best raft. They then had to sail their raft with half the team, pick up the other members,

row to a middle island before managing the home straight.

There was much hilarity as everyone started rowing, screaming, laughing and falling off – with the apparent real point of the activity to get as wet as possible! The abseiling saw the children descending 60 metres to the ground from a local viaduct. Again, the bravery shown was phenomenal, and every child had two goes; despite some initial wobbles!

Seventy children returned more resilient, more determined and more capable and proud of the many achievements they had made.

**Summing up their trip, the children said it had been: "Fun, exciting, hard, brilliant, amazing and epic."**

**D**URING the first half of the summer term, all seventy Year 6 children embarked on a residential trip to the Hollowford Centre in Castleton, in the Peak District. On arriving, they had the task of making their own bed; life skill number one ticked off! Then, over the next 48 hours, the children took part in caving, cycling, raft-building, zipwire, hiking and abseiling.

Caving really made children face their fears – the cave quickly narrowed down with some parts a real squeeze to pass through, and became darker and deeper until only headtorches cast light. Stalactites and stalagmites were a plenty as well as the chance to crawl through a worm hole!



## Green-fingered winners!

As part of the STEM enrichment week in the Infant & Junior Division, which had a theme of 'Growth', we ran a Junior gardening competition.

Pupils were asked to design a mini garden for their year group's raised bed. These are in the well-being garden at the front of the Juniors.

There were nearly 40 entrants, all showing an incredible knowledge of plants.

The winners took a trip to Prestbury Nursery, where the owner helped the children pick their plants and gave them lots of tips to help their gardens thrive. They planted the beds up with the help of their classmates. Congratulations to the winning designers:

**Year 3** – Mia Labrosse

**Year 4** – Bertie Maynard

**Year 5** – Craig Hallinan

**Year 6** – Joseph MacKenzie

## national nomination with natural heat project

From over 350 entrants, the King's team of A-Level Physics students are shortlisted for the Teamwork Award, after designing a system to convert the natural heat from compost into an energy source to promote seed germination.

Working under the guidance of King's Head of Physics, Dr Hartnett, and John Blackwell, the Engineering Director of Opus Technical Ltd, the team produced

a full design and prototype to impress the regional panel of judges.

For their six-month project "harnessing the energy from composting to accelerate seed germination" the team determined the ideal blend of compost material, type of composter, and methods to convert and control the resulting energy before managing the heat transfer to the horticultural system.



# Reach for the STARS



A key part of the School's Strategic Development Plan, published earlier this year, is challenging our most able pupils in all aspects of the curriculum. Whilst this is not a new concept at King's, it is one that we are keen to develop yet further. Mr Griffiths, Deputy Head (Academic) and our Challenge and Enrichment Coordinator, Miss Soutter, have recently overhauled our Challenge and Enrichment provision for Senior and Sixth Form pupils and launched King's very own SPACE programme: Stretching Pupils through Academic Challenge and Enrichment.

## TAKE OFF

Aiming high and being academically ambitious from the get-go is key to establishing a learning culture soaked in question, challenge and discovery. Preceding the SPACE programme in the Infant & Junior Division is an exciting programme providing opportunities for our younger pupils. Pupil progress is monitored very carefully and exceptionally able pupils are highlighted across all curriculum areas. Infant and Junior Heads of Department ensure that tasks are set to enhance and stretch talents, nurturing an inquisitive approach and a culture of self-study and practice from a really young age.

Specific opportunities are provided to extend learning in and from the classroom with specific clubs running at lunchtime, local and national competitions and experiences outside school with other schools via the North West Junior Gifted and

Talented Programme. Inclusive to all pupils in the Division is a dedicated programme of special enrichment focus teaching weeks, competitions, speakers, trips and projects - all designed to ignite ambitious learning and endeavour.

The Learning Challenge Curriculum, which runs in all year groups, encourages a question-based approach to learning, incentivising pupils to find out more and be tenacious in their study of particular subjects.

The Infant & Junior Division provides a wonderful platform for pupils to develop a thirst and energy to ask, imagine, question and find out. This culture promotes a strong ethos of limitless learning for our younger learners, helping them brilliantly to take their next steps with confidence as they move to the Senior Division.

## Entering SPACE

The SPACE programme in the Seniors and Sixth Form works on a number of levels. At the first level, we want to ensure that pupils are challenged and stretched academically in those subjects where they are particularly able. Some students may be gifted in one specific area, and it is important that they are given the opportunity to develop their talents and their passions in that field.

Each subject has its own coordinator whose role is to ensure that particularly talented students are being challenged in their subject area. Challenge tasks are set by the teacher to be completed in the lesson or in homework and pupils may also attend lunchtime clubs that allow scope for going beyond any curriculum and exploring their passions and talents.







Nearly all departments also participate in competitions, either organised by King's or hosted by industry partners or fellow schools to give pupils the opportunity to compete on a larger stage. Maths, Physics, Chemistry and Biology Olympiads are held, but lesser-known competitions include the Education Engineering Scheme, Mace Debating Competition, STEM Olympics, BIMA Digital Day, Barclay's Tech Innovation Challenge, National Cipher Challenge and the Living Edge Art Competition, to name just a few.

There are also other opportunities for the pupils to go beyond the taught curriculum, such as King's own Percyvale Prize, which sets a range of tasks on a particular theme to allow the students some free expression.

King's provides Senior and Sixth Form pupils with a Challenge and Enrichment section of our VLE (virtual learning environment or portal). This offers pupils the opportunity to select and complete a range of tasks set by departments. These are made available to all students as we want to encourage aspiration and interest amongst all our students. Awards are given to those pupils who complete Challenge and Enrichment tasks.

At the second level, from Year 9 upwards we provide those students who are academically at the very top end of each year group with a teacher mentor. Each mentor will typically have two or three students and they will meet as a group three or four times each term. This is an opportunity for the students to meet with similar-minded peers and mentor sessions will focus on developing their interests and passions and encouraging them to go beyond the curriculum in their favourite subjects.

They will also practise discussing and debating current issues and students in Year 10 will complete the HPQ (Higher Project Qualification), which is a level 2 qualification and a stepping-stone to the EPQ (completed in Year 13). Attendance at the mentor sessions is voluntary and parents are informed of their attendance. The emphasis is on academic aspiration, scholarship, and super-curricular study to complement the enrichment on offer from the co-curricular programme.

### EXPLORING THE UNIVERSE

Once students are in the Sixth Form, the SPACE programme naturally segues into the Sixth Form

'Aspire' programme as preparation for competitive entry universities. Students attend weekly Masterclasses designed to widen their academic horizons, develop higher order thinking and analytical skills, and give them key preparation for university interviews.

Oxbridge applicants and aspiring Medics and Vets are also given departmental mentors in Year 12 to prepare them for the university interview process. Our academic clubs and societies, such as Debating Society and the 1502 Society, develop students as thinkers and intellectuals, whilst the EPQ allows them to demonstrate and pursue their own interests in their chosen topic area.

Of course, the standard at King's is very high and while all of our pupils have the opportunity to be challenged and enriched, the SPACE programme means that there is also specific provision for those who are consistently performing above King's high academic expectations. It is safe to say that all pupils are given the chance to reach for the stars and to 'fly' as high as their aspirations and ambitions can take them!





## ATHLETICS

The summer has seen a welcome return to the Athletics track and field after two years of the pandemic. The Stockport Grammar Relays event got the season off to a good start. It was a very close competition, with only 1 point separating each school. The Year 10 athletes put on an impressive display of athleticism to win all of their races and, overall, King's finished 4th.

Year 7 athletes competed well in the Macclesfield & District Athletics Competition to finish in second position overall, with the Girls' team winning and the Boys taking 5th place. There were some superb individual performances with 7 of our athletes qualifying to represent Macclesfield at the Cheshire Minors County Championships: Sophia Heywood (100m), Hattie Usher, (200m) Lola Bianchi (800m), Grace Taylor (1500m), Bobby Tomlinson (1500m), Rocky Maguire (Shot) and Dylan Fineberg (Discus).

In Round 1 of the ESAA Schools' Cup, our Junior Girls' team (Years 7/8) was 3rd, the Junior Boys' team 7th, Inter Girls (Years



### AJIS Athletics

*The U10 and U11 athletes took part in the AJIS Athletics competition, which saw more than 20 schools compete. Notable performances were from Henry Heptinstall, who came 5th in the Year 5 80m sprint; the Year 5 boys 4x100m relay team, which came 4th, Lottie Winterton, who came 4th in the Year 6 150m sprint; Eva Sheppard, who came 3rd in Year 6 600m, Josh Jepson, who came 3rd in Year 5 600m and Amelia Grace, who came 2nd in Year 5 ball throw.*

9/10) was 4th, and Inter Boys team 3rd. Both Inter teams and the Junior Girls qualified to compete in the Regional B finals.

There were some outstanding performances at the Macclesfield & District Athletics Juniors and Inters competition, where 27 of our athletes were selected to represent Macclesfield at the County Championships.

The Junior Girls and Inter Boys Teams were first overall and the Junior Boys and Inter Girls teams were 3rd overall out of the 10 schools in the district.



## Sporting CONGRATULATIONS TO...

**Harry Boddy, Toby Boyd, Lucas Burns, Year 7 and Rory Horne, Adithya Nair, Oliver Price and Austin Woods, Year 8**, who have been selected to play in the Cheshire District U13 Cricket Festival.

**Leo Burns and Alfe Usher**, who have been selected into the full Cheshire U13 County Cricket squad, and Joe Moores, Liam Yahathugoda, Christian Smith and Fin Nash who have been selected into the full Cheshire cricket squads.

**Reece Grady** who competed at the British Swimming Championships (a Commonwealth Qualifier Event) and came 3rd in the Junior 800m and 1500m Freestyle events and placed 4th in the 400m Freestyle.

Reece also qualified for 8 events at the British Summer Age Group Championships in Sheffield. He ranks 2nd in his age for the 800m and 1500 free and highly for the 200 free, 400 free, 200IM and 400IM.

**Lydia Hine**, Year 11, who has been invited to trial for the England Roses Netball squad.

**Minnie Longdon**, who has been selected to represent England in a home international at Blair international Horse trials at the End of August

**Harrison Milner**, Year 12, who has been selected to represent Lancashire RFU Under 17 in rugby union.

**Georgia Smalley** who took part in the Satellites Spring Open Swim Meet winning 2x Gold Medals (200m breaststroke and 200m backstroke), 2x Silver Medals (50m backstroke and 50m freestyle) and 3x Bronze Medals (50m breaststroke, 100m breaststroke and 100m individual medley).

**Christian Tattum and Evan Williams**, Year 11, who have progressed from Sale Sharks U16s into the U17s Academy.



## CRICKET

An excellent start to the cricket season has seen all the age group squads go through to the latter stages of the Cheshire Cups. The U13 squad has also had a good run in the National KO. To qualify for the National stages, King's won the U12 County Cup last season and have so far beaten MGS, St Peter's York and Sedbergh to be crowned North Champions.

The team now await the winners of the Midlands group in the National semi-final. U13 opening batter Liam Yahathugoda has been in great form, with three centuries so far for the team. Pictured are Liam Yahathugoda (2nd from right), along with fellow Cheshire age group cricketers Alfie Usher, Leo Burns and Joe Moores.



## EQUESTRIAN



King's Equestrian Squad had a weekend to remember at the home of British horse riding, Hickstead. Competing at the Dodson & Horrell Eventers' Challenge Championships and Inter-County Show Jumping Championships, the King's team achieved two fantastic 1st place finishes. Rubi Ambrey



Brosnahan, Izzy Lyons, Oliver Ravenscroft and Poppy Holding won the 70–75cm Eventers' Challenge class ahead of

31 other teams, with Izzy Lyons finishing 7th overall. In the 80–85cm Eventers' Challenge class, the team of Poppy Holding, Georgina Lyons, Oliver Ravenscroft and Hattie Lowe claimed 1st place out of 46 teams, with Hattie coming 6th as an Individual.

There were further strong team performances in the 90–95cm Eventers' Challenge (Poppy Holding 8th), and in the Show Jumping, which included Reuben Blackhurst in the King's team.

## TENNIS



King's had a strong start to the Tennis season with Saturday fixtures versus Stockport GS, Cheadle Hulme, Withington and MGS. U13 player Isaac Whenman has been in fine form alongside partner Hugo Blackwell, producing some dominating performances against SGS. The girls have encountered some strong opponents, but challenged each point tenaciously. Charlotte Hunt (U15) produced some excellent shots in the match against Withington. All players are benefitting from the enhanced links with Prestbury Tennis Club and Star Coaching.

Annabel Wong, in Year 7, is also enjoying a successful season and competed in the Grade 1 National Grass Court Tennis Championships, finishing 3rd in the Singles and, along with her partner, winning the Doubles competition.

## Class of '62 visits new campus

In June, we welcomed back 11 former pupils who all left King's in 1962. They enjoyed a tour of the new campus and, in particular, relished seeing some of the old equipment in the DT workshops and the War Memorials that were transferred from the old site. Lunch in the refectory was a highlight, and they all agreed it was nothing like their old school lunches!



John Astbury said: "It was a very enjoyable visit, and we are very impressed with the school." The group included **Chris Beard, Phil Weir, Colin Bracknell, Dave McGowan, John Astbury, Barry McGuigan, Terry Booth, Michael Hayman, David Hooley, John Armitt and David Wooliscroft.**

## Beth ranks third in the world



**Beth Burrows** (2015) has competed in the World Championships for Cheerleading in Orlando. Not only is it a fantastic achievement to get to the world championships, Beth's team came third.

## Engineering the future with Katy

Last month **Katy Toms** (nee Ward), a 2007 leaver, came back to speak to pupils. Katy is now a specialist engineer and ran a session for Years 9–13 on how varied the profession can be. Katy spoke about building everything from major highways to the project she has set up in Malawi – STEM Build Malawi, a project to design and build STEM classrooms in schools.



## Chelsea Flower Show success

**Bea Tann** (2018) received a Silver Gilt Medal for her garden at the Chelsea Flower Show. At 22, she was the youngest entrant in this year's competition and her 'Enchanted Rain Garden' was based around the Manchester climate.

## Upcoming events

- 1 July – Summer Alumni Drinks – King's School
- 4 July – Opening of the Wilson Field & Former Pupils' Cricket
- 5 July – Recent Leavers Drinks (2020 & 2021 leavers)
- 12 November – A Question of Sport



## Senior Charity Challenge 2022

Year 11 King's pupil, **WILL GEM**, is one of the School's Charity Prefects who has had a busy year fundraising for chosen charities. Here, he explains their recent activities and success in raising significant sums for good causes.



"This year, it has been a pleasure to help those less fortunate than us. Often, I feel it is too easy to forget all we have and take a step back to be grateful. I believe King's always strives to exceed expectation and we often raise more money than ever expected. None of this would be possible without the immensely supportive parent

body, nor without the various extremely hard-working charity teams that make events happen.

Throughout the year, the Senior Division Charity Prefects and I have taken part in many activities to raise money for our charity of the year, Visyon, a local teenage mental health charity. We met Kerry and Linda, who came in to tell Senior and Sixth Form pupils what Visyon does and how our money will support them. So far, we have raised over £6,000 for Visyon in six months!

We have also supported a number of other charities including Children's Adventure Farm Trust, the Wood Street Mission, East Cheshire Hospice, Francis House Trust and Silk Life Food Bank. Our fundraising activities range from a Christmas Charity Dash around Congleton, throwing sponges at teachers, holding fairs in the Jackson Hall and cake sales.

Pupils across the school have been motivated to support the people of Ukraine and have raised over £5,000 for the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) Appeal, as well as organising collections of clothes, toys and supplies for refugees.

Though the Prefects and I have had lots of fun this year, it is important to us that next year we do just as well – if not better! Recently we met with Ronald McDonald House charity to discuss fundraising opportunities for them next year. Finally, I would like to say thank you to everyone who got stuck in, to support us to raise money for Visyon and other charities."

**Niya Alias**, Year 12 who passed her ABRSM Grade 4 Violin exam.

**Madi Baxter**, who won 'Young Volunteer of the Year' at the Netball North West Awards

**Francis Bennett**, Year 11 whose basketball team, The Manchester Magic, won the U16 National Championship.

**Harriet Bright**, Year 7 who was awarded second place in the Love Music Trust Young Musician of the Year 2022.

**Lottie Baxter**, who played for the Manchester Thunder U12 Pathway team in the warm up for the Superleague Manchester Thunder V Loughborough Lightning match

**Harriet Bright, Josh Clark, Elijah Craine** and **Will Gandy**, for their prizewinning performances at this year's Alderley Edge Music Festival.

**Ted Broadley, Haydn Keogh** and **Finley Usher**, Year 12, who have been selected for the Cheshire U17s Squad.

**Tasha Clark**, Year 10 who passed her ABRSM Grade 2 Piano Performance exam with Distinction.

**Ollie Davies**, Year 11 who progressed from Sale Sharks U16s into the U18s Academy and has been invited as an England Academy Player.

**Emma Edwards**, Year 12, who won the Female A category at the BMC Junior British Boulderling Championships.

**Toby Fraser**, Year 12, who passed his Grade 5 Alto Saxophone exam.

**Freddie Griffiths**, Year 10 and **Koby Wilkinson** and **Toby Wilson**, Year 11 who have progressed from Sale Sharks U16s into the U18s Academy.

**Oliver Hall**, Year 13, for achieving a Gold Award in the RSC Chemistry Olympiad.

**Annabelle Jordan**, Year 9, who has gained a distinction in tap and a merit in modern dance in her grade 5 ISDT exams.

**Trinity Mack** and **Euan Usher**, Year 13, for achieving a Silver Award in the RSC Chemistry Olympiad.

**Amelie Manson**, Year 7, who passed her ABRSM Grade 5 Singing exam with Distinction.

**Edward Marsden Smith**, Year 3, who passed his ABRSM Grade 1 Piano exam with Merit.

**Heidi Naylor**, Year 1, who passed her ABRSM Grade 1 Piano exam with Distinction.

**Sam Parry**, Year 12, and **Narayan Chakrabarty**, Year 7, who have qualified for the Chess Gigafinal in July.

**Thomas Pham**, Year 8 who passed his ABRSM Grade 4 Piano exam.

**Lacey Quinn**, Year 6, who passed her ABRSM Grade 2 Piano exam with Merit.

**Georgia Smalley**, Year 9 who passed ABRSM Grade 4 Alto Saxophone Performance exam with Merit and **Vaseegaran**

**Vasantharajan**, Year 12, who passed Grade 5 Alto Saxophone exam.

**Alexa Watkins**, on her selection for the National U17 City of Liverpool Waterpolo squad.

**Bea Worlock**, on her selection for Cheshire U14 Netball Team who won the Telford U15 Inter Counties tournament.

**Lara Challinor, Jack Hutchins, Benji Hutchinson, Sebastian Stead in Year 6, Harriet Bright, Josh Clark, Joe Joseph, Harry Lloyd, Olivia MacCormack, Lucy Pierpoint, Emilia Ross, Frank Shanahan, Gabriel Wade** in Year 7 and **Adeline An & Charlie Anderson** in Year 8 who have achieved a Gold certificate in the UKMT Junior Mathematics Challenge. **Raphael Sherry**, Year 8, who scored the best in the school in the UKMT Junior Mathematics Challenge.

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