



King's Colours

1502

Autumn 2023

The termly newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield

Outstanding results for King's

Pupils buck the national trend with stunning set of GCSEs and A Levels

King's A Level and GCSE students celebrated outstanding results this summer, bucking the national trend. Despite a nationwide downturn in overall grades, King's GCSE results were up on the previous year and the best since 2014. King's pupils achieved 43% of all grades at 9/8 (A*) and 65% of grades at 9-7 (A*-A). An impressive 82% of all grades are 9-6 (A*-B).

Head, Mr Jason Slack, said: "We are incredibly proud of this year's GCSE students. Their results represent the best externally awarded grades for nine years and are fully deserved by a committed cohort, particularly against a national picture of a significant decline in the number of top grades."

At A Level, which marks the culmination of students' King's journey, results were equally impressive. Nearly half of all grades were A* or A, and an impressive 80% of grades were A*-B. Importantly, 71% achieved their first choice of university and 56% of students are joining Russell Group



universities, including two joining Oxford and Cambridge.

Mr Slack paid tribute to the students: "This cohort have worked exceptionally hard and thoroughly deserve these wonderful results. In addition, they have developed the character and broader skills necessary to meet the challenges of the modern world through a wide range of extra-curricular interests

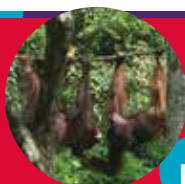
and I look forward to hearing of their future success." In the prestigious Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), which is highly valued by universities, 53% of all grades are A*/A, reflecting students' hard-work. Students are going on to study a wide range of courses, from art and medicine to law and zoology, as well as a number of students who have gained places on degree-level apprenticeships.



Compass programme in the running for Wellbeing Award!

King's has been shortlisted in this year's Education Awards 2023, in the 'Wellbeing Award' category. The nomination is for our 'King's Compass' programme, which is our commitment to outdoor learning, personal development and wellbeing.

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HEAD'S UPDATE



THE start of this term was characterised by positivity and optimism as we returned for the new academic year whilst celebrating another batch

of excellent exam results. Against a backdrop of national media rhetoric that cautioned against higher grade boundaries and plummeting top grades, King's was triumphant in bucking the national trend.

Almost a fifth of all grades at A Level were at A* grade and 48% of all grades were at A/A*. A third of Year 13 gained grades of three As or better and seven pupils gained an incredible three A* grades.

At GCSE level, the academic progress of the School is even more stark. We gained 65% of all results at grades 9-7 (A*/A). Not only an improvement on last year, but this represents our best performance on this same measure within external exams for the last 9 years. A third of all pupils had nine subjects with grades of 7 and above. Achievement like this comes as a consequence of school challenging the pupils to aspire and work hard, true to our school aims and we couldn't be prouder of these young adults.

Several of those pupils receiving excellent results further exemplified the holistic approach that the School has to its educational experience as they had taken part in one of four international trips to have taken place over the summer. This included two trips of a lifetime; an expedition to Borneo and a rugby tour to New Zealand and Malaysia.

Despite the remote venues, the wonders of modern communication meant that amazing pictures were immediately available of orangutan spotting, scuba diving, and the Maori haka! It has been wonderful to hear the stories from pupils returning from these trips and to observe the personal development that has been derived from their experience.

One aspect of the whole school being accommodated under one roof that is particularly rewarding is the opportunity for cross divisional activity where older pupils can mix with younger pupils. Having a child in the Infant & Junior Division mentored by a sixth former is mutually beneficial in that the older children can act as role models in a very different and (arguably) more relevant way to younger children than teachers.

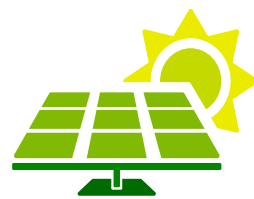
The sixth form pupils approach their role in a very mature manner, gaining great satisfaction from helping in the development of their charges. Our mentor programme is now in its second year of operation and is bigger and better than before, having developed through our initial experience last year. With the importance of community being central to our approach of building confidence within the pupils, this work is crucial in making the children feel a sense of belonging and pride in their school.

I hope that you enjoy reading this latest edition of *King's Colours* where the sense of community and the enjoyment it brings is clear for everyone to see.

Jason Slack
Head of Foundation



Cleaner and greener Sports Centre



King's has invested £200,000 in solar panels on the roof of the Sports Centre and positive early data shows the 800m² array will pay for itself within just four years.

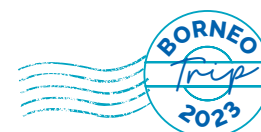
The Sports Centre houses a 25m six lane swimming pool, a large sports hall, an indoor cricket centre, dance studio, classroom and café. Energy costs have been high with demand for the facilities ensuring the Sports Centre is busy from 7am-10pm most weekdays and over the weekends.



The new solar panels are in addition to existing panels on the main School building and is the latest initiative aimed at making King's a net zero energy user.

The new panels will also power the aeration systems in the on-site ponds to boost wildlife and biodiversity to enhance King's outdoor learning programmes.

The system was completed by renewable energy experts Solarsense, who donated a further 12 panels to the Physics Department so pupils can learn the science behind the energy conversion systems and be fully involved in analysing energy efficiency data.



Expedition to Borneo

In July, an intrepid 31 adventurers undertook a life-enhancing expedition to Borneo, where they came face-to-face with rescued orangutans and sun bears, climbed the 13,454ft Mount Kinabalu and learned to scuba dive.

They also did more than their fair share to help local communities, cleaning beaches and renovating village facilities to help create a trekking route to generate income for a remote village.

The three-week expedition was very much a student-led trip with the pupils researching and organising their own schedules. Dr Williams, who accompanied the trip, said:

"As well as opening their eyes to a completely different culture with problems and opportunities you simply will never see in the UK, it was about developing team-working and problem-solving skills, alongside resilience."

Highlights included visiting the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre and the Sunbear Conservation Centre in Sabah.

These amazing facilities provide medical care for orphaned and confiscated orangutans and sun bears, the smallest bears in the world, and other species threatened by poaching, illegal pet trade and deforestation.



Pupils also undertook community projects including cleaning beaches and renovating community buildings and facilities in remote villages.

Dr Williams said "I was delighted that the students made this part of their trip an absolute priority, devoting more time in the schedule to community support than had originally been allocated, showing tenacity to finish projects for local communities."

A question of Character

The importance of Character Education



*Intelligence plus character is
the goal of true education*

Martin Luther King



Martin Luther King famously said: 'Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education.'

Visitors to the Senior School are met with one of our school aims emblazoned across the wall in front of them – 'Equipping young people with the character and skills necessary to meet the challenges of an ever-changing world.' Developing pupil character is more important than ever in a post-Covid world and is now compulsory for schools to have a plan for developing pupil character alongside their academic development.

Intellectual Character

In the Infant & Junior Division, the Learning Challenge curriculum encourages our pupils to be independent and enquiring and the SCARF approach encourages pupils to be kind and sensitive to others. In the Senior Divisions, our 'learning habits' approach to teaching means that in our lessons, we are as

interested in developing our pupils' learning character and attitudes as we are in presenting subject content. In all of our lessons, we are developing one or more of our five key 'learning habits': Resilience; Reasoning; Collaboration; Questioning; Reflecting. These are all aspects of the ideal learner and are about how they approach their work and study, what we also sometimes call 'intellectual character.' The fact that this is at the centre of our learning philosophy is why we were given the Gold Award from the Learning Quality Framework last year for the way that we develop our pupils as learners; and confident, resilient learners are going to cope better with the difficulties of studies and exams. Critical Thinking is also a timetabled lesson in Key Stage Three and throughout the School we encourage the pupils to be independent-minded.

Character Education in 'Compass' lessons.

King's Compass is a character development programme which



starts in the Infant & Junior Division and runs through to the Sixth Form. Pupils have King's Compass lessons in every year of the School. They cover the requirements of the National Curriculum for PSHE and more; in Year 9 we teach a 'character education' curriculum where the pupils learn about some of the key virtues they need to develop in line with the work done by the Jubilee Centre for Character Education. All lessons are linked in some way to such 'virtues' as kindness, compassion and gratitude.

This develops the 'moral virtues' alongside the intellectual virtues developed by academic lessons. Compass lessons also focus on outdoor learning, making the most of our fantastic rural school site by taking pupils outdoors to complete teambuilding activities as well as bushcraft.

Evidence shows that this kind of experiential learning both boosts pupil wellbeing and also enhances their performance in their academic subjects, so it is a win-win!

Having the right mindset

Having a positive mindset is obviously a crucial character trait to succeed. Throughout the School, we encourage all our pupils to be resilient and have a 'growth mindset'.

This is based on Carol Dweck's influential work which identified the importance of having a 'can-do' attitude and responding well to difficulties and setbacks. Believing they can always improve with hard work is a crucial mindset for pupils and develops optimism and a sense of 'self-efficacy' (that is, they have control over their own improvement and lives).

We have also recently introduced the '**A Level Mindset**' for our **Sixth Form students**, which emphasises the importance of having the right approach to studies and is based on the acronym **VESPA**:

Vision – having the vision to know where they want to go and want they need to do to succeed

Effort – putting in the right amount of effort to succeed

Systems – having a systematic and organised approach to their learning

Practice – regularly practising the skills to succeed in academic studies

Attitude – having a positive attitude and being resilient and responding well to setbacks.

Extra-curricular activities

Our vast extra-curricular programme is crucial in developing our pupils' character. Expeditions and DofE develop crucial virtues such as resilience and teamwork, encouraging pupils to step out of their comfort zone. Clubs and societies also encourage pupils to be curious and go beyond the curriculum. Sporting fixtures foster teamwork and bring pupils into contact with the wider world.

Developing pupils as good citizens

We want our pupils to understand their place in the wider community and the importance of service to others and charity. We are proud of the amount of charity work the pupils

and their parents engage in at King's, and in fact every year there are a plethora of charity events the pupils partake in. We are also proud that sometimes pupils will undertake their own charity activities to raise money for various good causes. Last year, the King's community raised a staggering £60,000 for their chosen charities, an incredible amount.

Volunteering also has an important place as we want our pupils to understand that there is an onus on them to offer service back to wider society. From Year 9 onwards, pupils taking DofE will engage in volunteering. Each year, we have around 220 pupils completing either bronze, silver or gold awards and each will undertake either 12 hours (bronze), 24 hours (silver) or 36 hours (gold) of volunteering. In the Sixth Form, students can undertake volunteering as part of their Activities Programme, with placements as varied as working in charity shops, care homes or local primary schools.

*Richard Griffiths,
Deputy Head (Academic)*

NETBALL



25 students from Year 7 and 8 attended the inaugural UK Netball Festival at Keele University, run in conjunction with England Netball. More than 40 schools and clubs from across the UK participated in U12, U14 and U16 netball tournaments, along with specialist coaching sessions with

England Netball coaches and players. Students excelled in the tournaments, with the U13s winning the U14 tournament. The U12s went one better finishing in both first and second place in the U12 tournament. Mia Clements from Year 7 was awarded Player of the U12 Tournament. Pictured is one of the coaching sessions with Colette Thompson, an England Netball coach.



RUGBY



On the back one of the most successful seasons in King's 93-year rugby history, a total of 39 young men and six staff took a 10,000 mile flight for what Mr Hetherington described, "as a frantic fortnight in which we played some fantastic rugby at a very high standard and experienced countless new things. It was a trip the boys will never forget and they were a credit to the School on the field but, more importantly, off it as well." Matched against regional and older teams, the squad worked wonders to record three wins, one draw and five losses, picking up some hard-earned and enduring lessons. The tour saw some fantastic sights, but none more awesome than the spine-tingling, motivational Haka. The tour included seven matches against

New Zealand clubs and schools and two final matches in Kuala Lumpur. Starting off in Auckland with visits to the All Blacks Experience and the Sky Tower and competitive fixtures versus Counties Manukau and St John's College. The teams then headed south to Taupo taking in the amazing Huka Falls and surrounding thermal spas. There were further fixtures against John Paul College and St Paul's Collegiate. On to Roturua where the squad experienced a traditional Maori village and Hangi meal followed by another adrenalin-fuelled visit down

the Skyline and Luge. The next couple of stops included Tauranga and Mount Maunganui with games against Greeton Marist and Kahkura clubs.

The flight to Kuala Lumpur saw a complete change of culture and scenery. Giles added: "There were incredible sites such as the ancient Batu Caves and the tallest twin-tower structure in the world, the Petronas Towers, but naturally the rugby still topped our priorities and the two final fixtures included a victory and a draw versus University of Defence Malaysia and ARAS Buffalo Rugby Club."

EQUESTRIAN



King's Equestrian Team were on fire at the Southview competition, qualifying for the October National Championships in eight of the ten classes entered.

The team won the Dressage competition and go forward to the team championships. Libby James and Poppy Holding came 2nd in their classes and Poppy also secured individual qualification.

In the Jumping with Style competition, Antonia Heptinstall won the 70-75cm Class. In the 80-85cm Class, the team of Antonia, Emily Carter and Libby James were placed 2nd, qualifying for the championships with Libby also winning the class and securing her qualification.

Emily Carter, Poppy Holding, Freddie James and Oliver Ravenscroft won the 90-95cm Class, with Freddie also gaining individual qualification. In the 100-105cm Class, Poppy Holding, Freddie James and Oliver



Ravenscroft won the class with Freddie also qualifying as an individual. In the Show Jumping competition, Lacey Barton-Firbank, Ruby Barton-Firbank and Libby James won the 70-75cm Class and qualified for the championships.

Emily Carter, Libby James, Ruby Ambrey Brosnahan and Antonia Heptinstall won the 80-85cm Class. In the 90-95cm Class, Poppy Holding, Oliver Ravenscroft, Freddie James and Emily Carter came 2nd, qualifying for the championships. Poppy Holding secured 2nd place in the 100-105cm Class, qualifying for the championships.

CRICKET



Our U15 boys' squad became National Cup Finalists. They won the U15 National Semi-Final v Rugby School, but sadly lost in the Final to Epsom College. Our boys' squads were also crowned the U12 and U14 Cheshire Cup winners. The U14s will go on to represent Cheshire in the 2024 U15 National Knock-Outs for the second season in a row, and the U12s will represent Cheshire in the 2024 U13 National Knock-Outs.

The U13 squad reached the North of England finals for the National Cup, whilst our U14 Girls squad had an impressive season and were finalists in the

Cheshire Cup.

A number of pupils have achieved representative honours, including Harry Serafi, Cheshire Adult Disabled CC-D40; Fin



Nash, Cheshire EPP, Cheshire U16; Christian Smith, Cheshire EPP and Cheshire U15; Lewis Wheeldon, Cheshire U15; Liam Yahathugoda, Cheshire EPP, Lancashire EPP, Cheshire U15 and U14; Alfie Usher and Leo Burns, Cheshire U14; Dylan Hodgson, Cheshire U13; Ben Holder, Oscar Howarth and Oliver Hodgson, Cheshire U12; Gabe Adamson and Tom Kenny, Cheshire U11.

HOCKEY



The girls' squads have had a strong start to the season. The U14 team won the County round of the National Schools T2 competition and progress to the North West Finals in November. The U13 team lost 1-0 to King's Chester in the Independent Schools Cup and therefore move into the plate competition. The U15 team are due to play King's Chester in the 3rd round of the Independent Schools Cup. Many of these players will represent the U16 team in the National Schools competition.

The Senior Girls 1st XI put on a fantastic performance against a strong Solihull opposition, but it wasn't enough to continue in the cup competition. They now face Withington in the National Plate Competition. The team will play in the North West indoor Finals at Rossall School before Christmas.

The Boys 1st XI had a great start winning their first four games. The U14 boys have had some good wins in the Cheshire Cup and now progress into Cheshire Cup semi-final at the end of November. The U16 and U18 Boys will be competing in the North West Finals Indoor Competitions.

Individually, Poppy Fletcher and Callum Richardson (Year 11) who have been selected for the England Hockey Talent Academy.



Golf day success



The heat was on the former pupils on a glorious golf day at the panoramic Macclesfield Golf Club. 16 former pupils took to the fairways to contest their annual championship named in honour of

respected former English teacher Frank Moore. Rob Oehlcke (1988) lifted the silver cup, compiling a stunning 42 points.

Ian Wilson said: "All former pupils are welcome to join our golf society. It's not about how good you are at golf, but simply about enjoying some good courses and great company."

Frisbee Fun

At the start of term, former pupils came back to school for an Alumni Frisbee event, with around 20 leavers from 2023 and 2022 joining in the fun with Sixth Form staff.

Alumni Sports Day

On 9 September, we were delighted to welcome former pupils back to King's to play in hockey and netball matches against current pupils.

It was a beautiful sunny day and the event finished with a fantastic hog roast and drinks. Results were: **Netball: 31-14** to the former pupils. **Hockey: 5-4** to the former pupils.



Speakers' Club

We welcomed back former pupil **Lyndsay Lomax** (2001) to talk to our netballers about her experience of playing netball internationally for Switzerland. Some of our pupils also got to compete against Lyndsay in the Alumni Sports Day that took place the following day.

We also welcomed back **Steve Grace** (1993) from the BBC

to talk to pupils about careers within the BBC and his route from a King's pupil to Head of Audience Planning. It was a great talk with lots of super questions from pupils. If you'd like to be part of our **Speakers' Club**, please get in touch development@kingsmac.co.uk



Year 10 pupil **Joe Moores** was selected to play for England U18 Young Lions Cricket squad following his performances for the North of England in the Bunbury Cricket Festival.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Huge thanks to everyone involved in our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning, which took place earlier this term. The House teams put on splendid cake sales and it was wonderful to welcome parents, grandparents and wider family and friends of our pupils. The whole event raised an enormous £811 for Macmillan Cancer Support, with Capesthorpe House raising the most on their cake stall.



Friends of King's Fun-day & committee

The Friends of King's Friday Fun-day at the start of term was a fabulous celebration of our community and managed to raise a huge £5,700. The sun shone, families old and new to King's came together and a lot of fun was had by both pupils and parents. Huge thanks to all the FoK organisers and parent volunteers who made the magic happen.

At the AGM in September, the Chair, Rachel Clark, shared that FoK raised an incredible £44k last year, of which £22k has been allocated to supporting school equipment, clubs and sports, and £9k was



donated to charities. FoK have also generously agreed to fundraise £50k for the School's new Sports Pavilion. Rachel has now

relinquished the role of Chair, after 13 years of commitment, dedication and leadership. The School is hugely appreciative of her contribution and thanks her for her service.

The new Chair, Claire Heseltine, was appointed and will work alongside Katie Burton as I&J Chair, Vicky Thornton, as Treasurer and Tracy Kelly, as Secretary. We are enormously grateful to everyone for taking on these important roles and to all of the volunteers who support the work of Friends of King's.

Friends of King's DIARY DATES

- **CHRISTMAS FAIR**
Saturday 2 December | 12-3pm
- **PARENT BALL 2024** | April/May 2024

Adeline An who was awarded a Distinction in ABRSM Violin Grade 6.

Adrian Bagherpour who received a commendation for his outstanding contribution to the Model UN competition.

Alex Bailey, Annabelle Jordan, Neave Stanway, Daisy Sutton and **Robb Thomas** who have achieved their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

Harriet Bright who passed her ABRSM Grade 7 Piano exam.

Emily Burton, Oliver Jones and **Natasha Williams** who have achieved their Silver DofE Award.

Isabelle Cheney who passed her ABRSM Grade 1 Piano with Merit.

Harriet Clough who passed her ABRSM Grade 1 piano exam with Merit.

Blake Denham who passed his ABRSM Grade 1 Oboe exam with Merit.

Isabelle Dugdale who passed her ABRSM Grade 4 violin exam.

Minnie Farooq who has been selected for the Staffordshire Netball U15 player development pathway and for Loughborough U16.

Poppy Fletcher and **Callum Richardson** who have been selected for the England Hockey Talent Academy.

Edward Gandy who has achieved his Gold DofE Award.

Aleena Hansraj who passed her ABRSM Grade 1 Piano exam with Merit.

Alice Hatton who has qualified for the Stars Champion of Champions 2023 equestrian event at Aintree in November.

Rory Horne who passed his ABRSM Grade 1 Piano with Distinction and his ABRSM Grade 4 Trumpet exam with Merit.

Evelyn Hodgkinson who passed her ABRSM Grade 1 trumpet exam.

Harry Kaye who passed his ABRSM Grade 3 Singing exam.

Liam Labrosse who passed his ABRSM Initial Grade Piano with Distinction.

Alice Miller who passed her ABRSM Initial Grade piano exam with Merit.

Joe Moores who was selected to play for England U18 Young Lions Cricket squad following his performances for the North of England in the Bunbury Cricket Festival.

Jacob Mooney who passed his ABRSM Grade 1 Singing exam with Merit.

Ted Myers who passed his ABRSM Grade 1 Oboe exam.

Adithya Nair who passed his ABRSM Initial Grade Piano with Distinction and his ABRSM Grade 4 violin exam.

Apolonia Olpinski who passed her ABRSM Grade 5 Singing for Musical Theatre exam.

Thomas Pham who passed his ABRSM Grade 5 Piano exam.

Emilia Ross who passed her ABRSM Grade 4 Violin exam.

Walter Travis (pictured right) who has signed a contract with Macclesfield Football Club.

Alexander Wilson who passed his ABRSM Grade 2 violin exam.

Annabel Wong who has been selected to represent GB at Tennis in Gran Canaria.



The King's School, Macclesfield

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

www.kingsmac.co.uk

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