



King's Colours

1502

Summer 2023

The termly newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield

King's ranks in **top UK schools**

King's has been recognised as one of the UK's very best sporting schools. From over 6,000 state and independent secondary schools, 'School Sports Magazine' has placed King's in the nation's Top 25.

The recognition follows a golden year of success at all age levels and across a huge range of sports. In Years 7-10, a staggering 74% of all pupils have had a chance to represent the School. Performance has been judged over 20 different sports and more than 120 different competitions. The impressive roll call of success includes:

- **Netball:** U19 and U13 County Champions; U16 County Tournament Plate winners; U14 National Schools Regional Netball Plate winners.
- **Cricket:** U13 Boys National Champions; U14, U13 and U12 Boys County Champions.
- **Hockey:** U18 Girls' County Champions; U14 Girls' and U14 Boys' North West Tier Two Champions; U13

Girls' County Champions and U18 Girls' NW Indoor Finals runners up.

- **Rugby:** 1st XV Cheshire Cup winners; National Cup Quarter Finalists; U15 National Cup Quarter Finalists; 1st VII, Rosslyn Park National Schools Vase Finalists; U15 and U13 Warwick 7s winners and Myles Marshall 7s winners; U12 Myles Marshall 7s winners and Wirral 7s Shield winners; U14 Myles Marshall Plate winners and the Freeborn Shield for the best school at the Warwick School 7s competition.
- **Cross-country:** Junior Girls Cheshire ESAA Cross Country Cup winners; team Silver medals in British Schools' Orienteering Championships.
- **Trampolining:** Five Gold medals at the National Schools Trampoline Championships.
- **Athletics:** Senior Boys' Long Jump ESAA Champion; Year 7 girls, Junior Girls and Inter Boys teams all 1st place in Macclesfield & District Athletics Competition.



Director of Sport, Chris Thomson, said: "There are a number of other sports that are also important to us and where fixtures are provided, in rounders, tennis, swimming, equestrian and golf. The new facilities have made a massive difference and the future of sport looks incredibly bright."



Chess players **move into the final**

King's chess players are making all the right moves with a record 11 young strategists qualifying for the Northern Gigafinal.

Queen of the board is brilliant Margo Hrebinych who earned a silver medal in the U8 category. Margo started playing at the age of just three-years-old with her granddad. She plays at least five times a week and is described by Junior Department Chess Co-ordinator Vicki Atkins, as "a little star and an absolute joy to work with."

There are currently 120 young King's players across five chess clubs for age groups from 5 to 18, with a dramatic increase in the game's appeal that coach Andrew Ireland puts down to "the TV series *Queen's Gambit* and the online master classes given by world's grand masters."

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raising
£30,000!



HEAD'S UPDATE

The end of the school year always provides opportunity for reflection and review.

This naturally happens as parents and pupils receive end of year reports and your children will be keen to read through them in order to search for not just the praise that they seek from their teachers as reward for their hard work, but also areas where they might improve further and use as a target next year.

As a school organisation, we are no different, and the results of our most recent parental and pupil questionnaires were eagerly anticipated during this last term. Staff work incredibly hard, and are also motivated by positive reinforcement. Knowing that parents are 'highly satisfied' with School and 'highly likely' to recommend King's is heartening to read (as was the case in the questionnaire results).

Similarly, having pupils give equally high ratings for the School as 'very good' is rewarding. More than 85% of children feel that teachers treat them fairly and more than three quarters of children find most lessons 'interesting'. Those of us that have greater experience of these kind

of questionnaires (and particularly questionnaires that involve adolescents), will understand how impressive these results are. Teachers and the broader support staff that work at King's are human too, and the results of the survey mean a lot to them.

The vast majority of children describe themselves as happy at school, and with a supportive peer group and staff to help them. Many parents will have been to open days or welcome

evenings recently and heard me speak of 'happy children making good learners'. Having pupils that describe themselves in this way is beneficial all around.

Our published school ethos explains that 'Learning and personal development are at the heart of our community' and I believe that the results of the questionnaires demonstrate that this ethos is shared by pupils and parents. Of course, no school is perfect, and there are areas of development that we will now look at carefully, as we move forward from a position of strength and in the knowledge that our community has a shared understanding of our school ethos.

At the time of writing, our Year 11 and Year 13 students are attending for what is their final week of GCSE and A Level examinations. They have faced these with resilience and maturity, and I hope that they lead on to the results that they need to open doors to the opportunities that await them, whether in King's Sixth Form, at university, starting a new course or an apprenticeship. These are big steps for our young people and we wish them all well in their future endeavours. I look forward to seeing a good number of parents on those all-important 'results days' in August when myself and our senior staff will be on-hand to help.

Jason Slack
Head of Foundation



Year 5 Bee Visit

As part of their 'Lifecycle' topic, Year 5 pupils enjoyed a recent visit from Happy Valley Honey. Professional bee farmers Paul and Sally spoke to pupils about the roles of bees as pollinators, the differences between drone and worker bees, the importance of the Queen and how honey is produced. Pupils were fascinated by the observation hive, in which they could see the Queen laying her eggs, and they also tried on beekeeping suits and taste-tested different varieties of honey.



Roller coaster ride

Year 10 GCSE Computing and iMedia students visited Alton Towers in June to gain an insight into the computer packages behind the running of such a complex theme park, which is home to over 40 rides and 10 roller coasters. The trip also offered our iMedia students an opportunity to observe and study the importance of multi-media, graphics and marketing for businesses.



Year 9 & 10 Spanish Trip

In May, 43 pupils from Years 9 and 10 and 5 teachers travelled to Sevilla and Cádiz for a busy week of sightseeing, Spanish lessons and splendid scenery. In Sevilla, pupils visited the Alcázar, the magnificent royal palace, and climbed to the top of La Giralda, the bell tower of Sevilla's cathedral, to enjoy stunning views of the whole city. Once in Cádiz, pupils stayed at Spark Language School and highlights of their stay included a paella cookery course, a rooftop BBQ, Padel Tennis lessons and a Flamenco class. The pupils' language skills flourished and they were superb ambassadors for King's.

Poetry in motion...to national final!



Year 9 pupil Raph Sherry has reached the finals of Poetry by Heart's national recital competition. A talented young writer and voracious reader, he won both the Cheshire final and the North West regional event.

To qualify, Raph had to recite two poems to camera, with formal judging in the final stages of the both the county and regional events. Raph

chose The Stolen Child, by W.B. Yeats and The Humming Bird by D.H. Lawrence. Both multi-layered in meaning, combining mysticism and folk lore with stark reality and acerbic wit, Raph's fluent recitals revealed "a maturity and emotional intelligence well beyond his years" according to English teacher Mrs Skelley, who will accompany Raph to the finals at London's Globe Theatre. She added: "We are all incredibly proud of Raph. He is a natural performer, and his use of his voice, intonation, rhythm and rhyme were all exemplary." In London, he will be performing to a full audience at Shakespeare's Globe, including some of Britain's leading writers and performers.

Engineering careers

Future engineers got a glimpse of tomorrow's world of robotics and AI, when expert Dr Jonathan Aitken gave a talk on the next industrial revolution.

Former pupil Jonathan is now a Senior academic at The University of Sheffield and has worked on providing solutions to some of the industrial world's most complicated problems including developing the robots that will ultimately decommission the Sellafield Nuclear Reprocessing Plant.

He spoke to around 50 pupils about engineering careers, the basics of drone technology and how they're used for different purposes. He said: "These pupils' working world will look increasingly at how we use AI and the ever-improving means of mass data collection to provide flexible solutions." He added: "Any engineering course is not an easy option. It will be intensive and require hard-work and discipline, but it is extremely rewarding."



Coronation Garden

King's celebrated its historic ties with the monarchy by opening The King Charles III Coronation Garden. Featuring a metal sphere beautifully crafted from recycled horseshoes, with shrubbery and bedding plants in red, white and blue, the new garden has been designed in the shape of the globe and represents King Charles' environmental concerns and passion for the natural world.

Designer Rick Astley, Assistant Head Groundsman, said: "We've used native plants, including lavender and creeping thyme, which we know are part of King's Charles' own gardens. The circular shape represents both the globe and the crown, and the horseshoe sphere links with royal passions for equestrianism and animals."

Diary
DATES



- **Year 7 & 12 Induction Morning**
Friday 1 September
- **Monday 4 September**
Start of Autumn Term
- **Sixth Form Open Evening**
Wednesday 27 September
- **Whole School Open Day**
Saturday 7 October
- **Sixth Form Subject Options**
Thursday 16 November

House ACTIVITIES Day

The end of May saw the introduction of a new Senior Division initiative – House Activities Day, which was a wonderful finale to internal exam week. Activities ranged from water polo, orienteering and football, to frisbee golf, Wellness Walks and Bake Off, and pretty much everything in between. We were very fortunate to have excellent weather and the pupils had a great time, participating in their chosen activities with plenty of excitement and energy.

It was a great way to round off the half-term and allow pupils to mix with fellow House members in other year groups and let off steam after several days of exams. We hope that this will become a permanent date in our King's School Diary.



Meet our New School Leadership Team

King's has chosen its student figureheads for the next academic year.

In the Sixth Form, brilliant young academics Aaryaa Premanand and Madi Baxter have been appointed School Captains and will be supported by Vice-Captains Lotta Tulley, Thomas Danson, Georgie Sanders and Evan Williams.

Together, they will develop their own leadership skills and help to improve school life for the pupil body as a whole. They will lead a team of 27 Prefects with responsibilities including 'Wellbeing', 'Charities', 'Infant & Junior Division', 'School Council', 'Diversity' and 'School Houses'.

After written applications, a vote among both their peers and teachers and final interviews with the Head and Principal of the Sixth Form, the new team will act as ambassadors for King's in the wider community and be the voice of the wider pupil body.

National League netball star Madi Baxter said: "I am incredibly proud to be made one of the new School Captains. I will enjoy the challenge of speaking in public and want to build links with the wider community, especially with local primary schools.

"I have been at the school since the age of four so I hope I can bring a wide knowledge of school life to the role and have a positive impact for pupils of all ages."

The Year 11 School Captain team will



Pictured (left to right) are: Lotta Tulley, Thomas Danson, Aaryaa Premanand, Madi Baxter, Georgie Sanders and Evan Williams.

be led by Will Gandy and Phoebe Harrison, who are no strangers to taking centre stage after starring in the Dickensian comic spoof '*Bleak Expectations*' earlier this year. Will now wants to encourage others to step out of their comfort zone: "I want to encourage students to get involved in all the opportunities King's has to offer, whether that's sport, music or drama and I want to break down the old stereotype that if you

want to be a musician or an actor you can't play sport."

Phoebe added: "I want to look after the wellbeing of all the pupils, especially the younger ones and make sure they have a voice."

Head, Jason Slack, said: "Our School Captains not only have an important operational role but provide the staff with fresh insight into the ever-evolving needs and wishes of the pupils.

"It was, as ever, an extremely strong field of candidates. I am looking forward to working with both the Year 13 Captains and the Senior Division Captains as they fulfil their important roles as ambassadors for the school and leaders within the pupil body."



Pictured (left to right) are Year 11s Abdullah Atif, Phoebe Harrison, Will Gandy, Francesca Moss-Seymour, and Emma Foster. Simon Shadwell is also a Vice Captain, but was helping the cricket team become regional champions at the time of the photo call.

ATHLETICS



It has been a successful season both on the Athletics track and in the field events, with some great individual performances and team successes.

At the Minors Macclesfield and District Athletics Championship, King's was the overall winner with the Minor Girls team winning and the Boys team coming second. The following individuals were selected to represent Macclesfield at the Minors County Championships: Anvi Lalwani won the Discus, Aaliyah Hammad 2nd in 1500m, Eva Sheppard 3rd in 800m, Naina Vasireddy 2nd in High Jump, Mason Smethurst 2nd in Long Jump and Zach Harper 3rd in the Javelin. In the Junior and Inter's District Championships, King's athletes

performed equally well; the Inter Girls and Boys teams were both 1st overall, Junior Girls finished 3rd, Junior Boys were 2nd.

15 pupils were selected to represent Macclesfield at the County Championships in June, where they competed against the best athletes in Cheshire. The following competed especially well: Philip Goodfellow 1st in Senior Boys 800m, Xander Hunter 1st in Junior Boys 100m, Sam Keep 2nd in Inter Boys Shot, Emily Danson 3rd in Inter Girls Javelin. Jake Lewis and Jamie McCabe 3rd and 4th in Inter Boys 800m, Harry Dodd 7th in IB Javelin and



Sophia Heywood JG 100m, Ross Hallinan 300m, Aidan Wagg Discus. Xander, Sam and Emily went on to represent Cheshire in the Mason Trophy Inter Counties Competition.

The first round of ESAA Schools Cup Competition saw some superb performances. The Junior Girls team finished in 2nd place and the Junior Boys were 4th. They both went on to represent Cheshire and compete in the NW Regional B Finals Competition, against schools from Merseyside, Cheshire, Manchester and Lancashire, where the Junior Girls finished in 7th place and the Junior Boys were 10th.

CRICKET



The U15 boys won the National semi-final at Rugby School on 21 June and have qualified for the National final on 4 July at Oakham School against either Epsom or Marlborough – this is the second consecutive year of reaching the National Cup Final and it is extremely rare for Cheshire sides to get to this stage of the National competitions! More than 1,000 schools enter the U15 National Cricket Cup, so to reach the final is an amazing achievement and we wish the squad all the best of luck.

In what has been a fantastic season, the U14 boys squad are the Cheshire Cup winners. They beat King's Chester in the final to retain The Cheshire Cup and to secure their place in the National rounds next season.

The growth in girls' cricket and competitive fixtures



has been particularly pleasing this season. Our U14 girls are through to the finals for the U15 Cheshire Cup; the U13 boys have reached the quarter-final of the National Cup and semi-final of the Cheshire Cup; and our U13 girls have reached the semi-final of the Cheshire Cup. The U12 girls have also had a good season - there is no U12 Cheshire Cup, but the team finished second in the Birkenhead Tournament. The U12 boys progressed to the semi-final of the



Cheshire Cup and had a very impressive 'Saturday' season. Three boys - Howarth, Holder and Hodgson - making the Cheshire side. James Cresswell's 7 wickets against MGS and a run of high scores from Tom Dyer are amongst the highlights.

A young 1st XI has also done well. With some excellent team and individual performances - a century for Freddie Griffiths one of the highlights.

TENNIS



A successful season of tennis saw players benefitting from the enhanced links with Prestbury Tennis Club and Star Coaching. There were Saturday fixtures in various formats (timed, singles and doubles) versus Stockport Grammar, Withington, The Grange and MGS. U13 player Miles Smethurst has been in fine form, producing some dominating performances against SGS in particular, equally Alex Hill and Hugo Blackwell

RUGBY



Toby's England call up

Toby Wilson (Year 12) has been selected to tour South Africa with the England U18 rugby squad this summer. This individual success is on the back of one of the most successful 1st XV seasons ever (P15 W13). Toby made his 1st XV debut in Year 11 and has been part of the Sharks Academy for a number of years and was invited to an U17 England Training Camp. Impressive further performances have resulted in his first England cap.

EQUESTRIAN



In May, the King's Equestrian team had an exceptional weekend at Hickstead, being placed within the top 10 for all seven of the championship classes. A special mention goes to Poppy Holding who was individually placed 8th in the 90cm-95cm Show Jumping Championship out of 102 competitors. In the Eventers' Challenge Championships (70-75cm), the team of Izzy Lyons, Emily Carter and Libby James (Juniors) came 3rd out of 34 teams. In the 100-105cm class, the team of Freddie James, Poppy Holding, Oliver Ravenscroft and Ruby Ambrey-Brosnahan came 9th out of 19. In the 80-85cm class, the team of Emily Carter, Izzy Lyons, Oliver Ravenscroft and Libby James (Juniors) were 9th out of 48. In the 90-95cm Challenge, the team came 5th.

In the Inter-County Dressage Championships, the team with Libby James, Oliver Ravenscroft, Freddie James and Poppy Holding were placed 6th out of 12 teams. In the Inter-County Show Jumping Championships (100-105cm), the team was placed 4th out of 12 teams with Freddie James, Poppy Holding, Oliver Ravenscroft and Rubi Ambrey Brosnahan. In the 90-95cm class, the team placed 3rd with Poppy Holding, Emily Carter, Oliver Ravenscroft and Freddie James.



(U15) have shown real maturity on the courts across all fixtures. The girls encountered some very strong opponents but challenged each point tenaciously. U15 players Charlotte Hunt and Alexa Watkins produced some excellent shots versus Withington, to play some very composed points. The fixtures against Fallibroome and The Grange brought some excellent victories, and demonstrated huge development within the squads.

Bursary Fund Golf Day

It proved to be a ladies' day at the annual Alan McInnes Golf Tournament this year, with a team of wonderful women lifting the trophy.

Raising money for the School's bursary fund in honour of sporting legend and former teacher Alan McInnes, 19 teams took part on a sun soaked day at the superb Prestbury Golf Course.

The all woman team, Tina Moorhouse, Katie Jordan, Kim Williams and Lesley Moores, put the rest of the field in the shade with a stunning 97 points, equivalent to a staggering 25 under par. The highlight was Katie's eagle at the notoriously challenging 13th, a 500 yard winding par five with danger at every angle.

The event raised a staggering £8,000 for the Bursary Fund. Alan's daughter, Nicola Moores, said: "My father came to King's when it was a grammar school and his family simply would not have been able to afford fees. He knew only too well that his love of cricket and rugby was nurtured in that environment and that he may not have gone on to have the career he loved so much without that wonderful start in life. That's why continuing to develop and support the Bursary Fund was so important to him."

Head Jason Slack, said: "The affection that so many former pupils show both for Alan McInnes and for their old school speaks much about King's tradition and heritage. Growing the Bursary Fund is a key element of our planning and huge thanks go to the organisers, donors and players."



Alumni DIARY DATES



- **SUMMER SOIREE** | Wednesday 5 July
- **ALUMNI SPORTS DAY** | Saturday 9 September
- **DRINKS IN THE CITY** | Wednesday 11 October | The Charterhouse, London
- **GALA DINNER** | Saturday 18 November at King's
- **MACCLESFIELD V KING'S RUGBY** | 28 December

Having a Ball...and raising £30,000 for charity!



King's parents partied into the early hours at their biggest ever fundraising ball at The Mere Country Club, which raised £30,000 for charity. Organised by the 'Friends of King's' parents' committee, more than 300 guests were royally

entertained with cabaret from comedy legend and actor, Les Dennis and renowned entertainer and comedian, Bobby Davro.

Claire Heseltine, a member of the Friends of King's Committee, said: "This has been our largest ever parent ball organised by our amazing team of parent volunteers, and what a night to remember! We were so lucky to have Les and Bobby and we can't thank them enough for entertaining us and hosting the evening. Huge thanks go to our event sponsors, CSG Automotive, and other sponsors, Supportis and Jordan Fishwick. Thank you also to so many parents for donating the generous prizes and we are delighted to have raised so much for good causes."

Pretty in Pink for Breast Cancer

In May, King's participated in the 'Paint Macclesfield Pink' project to raise money for Prevent Breast Cancer, a charity based at the Nightingale Breast Cancer Unit at Wythenshawe



Hospital. The King's campus was bathed in pink lighting every night, the swimming school turned pink for the week and glowing pink bows adorned the trees along the boulevard. Pupils engaged in a range of fundraising activities, including a Sixth Form 'pink' touch rugby match.

Helen Broadley said: "Our pupils, parents and staff – many of whom have been affected by this disease – pulled together to raise over £1,000 which will help Prevent Breast Cancer in their aim of predicting, preventing and treating the UK's most common cancer."

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

Harriet Bright, Year 8, who was placed 2nd in the Year 7-9 section of the Cheshire East Young Musician 2023 on piano. She was also awarded 1st and 2nd place in the clarinet and piano classes respectively of the Alderley Edge Festival and performed clarinet in the Festival Finale concert.

Lalli Brown, Year 9 and her U14 Netball Team Kingsway Power, who won the England Netball National U14 Club Finals.

William Gandy, Year 10, who was awarded a Merit in ABRSM Violin Grade 7.

Amelia Grace, Year 6, who was awarded a Distinction in ABRSM Piano Grade 3.

Annabelle Jordan, Year 10, who was awarded a Distinction in ABRSM Singing Grade 5. Annabelle also gained a distinction in ISTD grade 6 tap dancing, and a merit in her ISTD grade 6 modern dancing.

Edward Marsden-Smith, Year 4, who was awarded a Distinction in ABRSM Trumpet Grade 1.

Anoushka Mosca, in Year 8, who placed in the top 40 in the North West Summer Regional Championships for swimming.

Apolonia Olpinski, Year 7, who was awarded a Distinction in ABRSM Clarinet Grade 1.

Harry Unsworth, Year 6, who was awarded a Distinction in ABRSM Piano Grade 1.

Jacob Fitton, Hema Garisa, Jack Hutchins (Year 7) and **Rohan Ahmed, Rubi Ambrey Brosnahan, Elias Barnsley, Harriet Bright, Josh Clark, Emily Danby, George Davis, Thomas Hughes, Joe Joseph, Harry Lloyd, Rocky Maguire, Sebastian Poulton, Emilia Ross, Frank Shanahan, Will Stephenson, James Unsworth, Gabriel Wade, Aiden Wagg** (Year 8), who achieved Gold on the Junior Maths Challenge.

Christopher Drake, Sophie Fletcher, James Hartley, Saira Jerath, Alice Jordan, Henri More, Iona Whaley, Lewis Johnstone, Oliver Lewer-Sotiriou, Catherine Ling and Rory McCabe for achieving their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Atif Abdullah, Joseph Bailey-Heald, Charlie Bennett, Sam Booth, Finlay Buckley, Aidan Dunnigan, Alex Frangos, Oliver Gotts, Jobin Joseph, Leon Lewer-Sotiriou, Olivia MacKenzie, Ella MacLeod, Nathan Moss, Francesca Moss-Seymour, Sal Newman, Felix Oliver-Williams, Hannah Ross, Georgia Smalley, Christian Smith, Joel Swindells, Toby Sykes, Surya Vasantharajan, Anson Wong, Adam Al-Ausi, Jensen Baldwin, Amber Cheshire, Millie Clayton, Sophie Clegg, Ariarna Gordon, Kate Piper, Asher Raymon, Charlie Saunders, Harry Shanahan, Charles Taylor, Angel Wale-Akinula, Oliver Farrer, James Hartley, John McDermott, Georgiana Sanders and Evan Williams for achieving their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Millar Anderson, Charlie Kaye, Sam Keep, Arthur Scrase and Christian Smith, who have been selected for Sale Sharks U16s SDG Academy. **Freddie Griffiths, Koby Wilkinson and Toby Wilson**, who have been selected for the Sale Sharks U18s Academy.

Noah Wolstenholme, Oliver Jones, Evan Williams, Solomon Lever, Christian Tattum, Koby Wilkinson, Fred Riordan, Edward Reynolds and Ollie Matthews, who have been selected for the Cheshire U17s rugby squad.

The King's School, Macclesfield

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

www.kingsmac.co.uk

www.facebook.com/kingsinmacc @kingsmac