



# King's Colours

1502

Summer 2024

The termly newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield



## Pupils buzzing about World Bee Day...

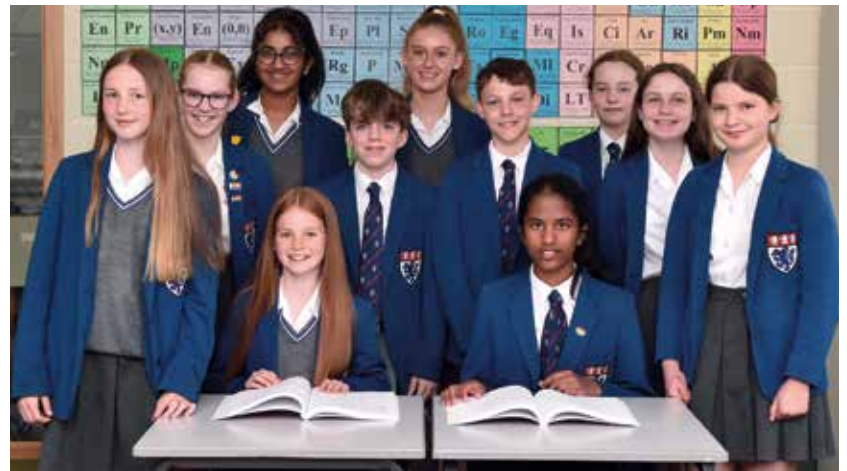


On World Bee Day, 20 May, Paul and Sally from Happy Valley Honey visited the Infant & Junior Division to lead talks for pupils in Year 2 to Year 6 about the importance of bees as pollinators.

Pupils learned about the life cycle of bees, the different roles of drones, worker bees and Queen bees, as well as the vital work of Bee Farmers.

Pupils particularly enjoyed seeing the bees hard at work in the viewing hive and trying to spot the Queen.

## Pot of Gold for young mathematicians



A stunning 22 pupils achieved Gold medals in the Junior Maths Challenge. Nidhi Garisa, in Year 8, achieved the highest score in school and now goes to the next stage of the UK Mathematical Association's Mathematics Olympiad.

Nidhi, who ultimately wants to be a computer scientist, said: "Maths is eye

opening, revealing the patterns that proliferate in the natural world. It's fascinating and exciting."

Other Gold medalists were Thomas Wolff, Cora Common, Fredrick Finnie, Matilda Fox, Rico Huang, Benjamin Hughes, Junli Zhu Harris, Alexandra Taylor, Haider Ahmad, Esme Bradley, James Cresswell, Thomas Dyer,

Benjamin Foxon, Evelyn Hannah, Jack Hutchins, Benjamin Hutchinson, Charlie Matthews, Lacey Quinn and Naina Vasireddy. In the Intermediate Maths Challenge, Gold medals were achieved by Dylan Hodgson and Emilia Ross (Year 9), Emily Allmand-Smith and Matthew Gass (Year 10) and Robb Thomas and James Waters (Year 11).

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## HEAD'S UPDATE



One of the reasons that working in a school is so rewarding is the privilege of witnessing (and supporting) the development of pupils into young adults.

This aspect is most apparent at a time of year when we say goodbye to our Year 13 pupils. The independence that they have shown in approaching the exam period in recent months can't help make a Head feel proud.

Our ethos explains that we 'seek to produce courageous and responsible citizens' and this has been as apparent as ever in the maturity of pupils getting on with the business of A Level examination and taking increasing responsibility for their own learning and development. Our Year 13 pupils leave us as 'well equipped young people with the character and skills necessary to meet the challenges of an ever changing world', (another part of our ethos).

Moments of reflection will be common for everyone at the end of the school year with exams and reports at the forefront. Our most recent parental and pupil questionnaires have helped to

prompt our own review of our best efforts. Knowing that parents are 'highly satisfied' with school and 'highly likely' to recommend King's is heartening to read.

Similarly, having pupils give equally high ratings for the school as 'very good' is rewarding. Almost 90% of children feel that teachers treat them fairly and 82% of children find most lessons 'interesting'. Both of these figures are the highest

across the 4 years that we've now been running this annual survey. 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.

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. Another aspect of our 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, but we move forward from a position of strength. A shared understanding of our school ethos and what elements are important to us all in the education of the children will remain a central aspect of our work.

**Jason Slack, Head of Foundation**



## Author Tom's school visit

Charismatic children's author Tom Palmer visited Senior pupils to talk about his journey as an author. The Yorkshire novelist specialises in books about both football and history and over 16 years has published had 62 books.

"Initially I struggled with reading and hated the very sight of a book. I eventually went on to university to read literature. So, it's important for children to read what they like – comics, sports reports, newspapers – as long as they read."

He told his audience about tricks of the trade, about planning the plot and using photography to develop your imagery, but also most importantly, "to believe in yourself, realise you have something to say and that you can and will complete your project."



## Geography trip to Sicily

During May half term, 32 pupils in Years 7–9 went on an adventure to Sicily.

An amazing blend of thrilling activities and cultural experiences, pupils climbed Mount Etna, Europe's highest and most active volcano, experienced gorge walking, navigating through beautiful natural rock formations and refreshing streams and learned from local chefs how to make authentic Sicilian pizza.

Overall, the trip was a perfect mix of adventure, education, and cultural immersion, providing pupils with unforgettable memories.

## Meet our New School Leadership Team



The new School Officers have been appointed to lead students for the next academic year. Michaela Quinn and Elijah Wood will assume the roles of School Captain, with a team of four Vice-Captains supporting them.

Michaela is studying English Language, German and Music at A Level and wants to read Film Studies at university. "I want to become a director or producer and be part of making the



magic that we see on-screen and that impacts so many people's lives."

Elijah has chosen Chemistry, Biology and Maths at university. Both School Captains want to actively pursue the school's charitable work. Michaela said: "We will be starting with a bang, organising a clothes drive across the whole school to support SafeSpots in Manchester. Next academic year, we

are looking forward to the Sixth Form Fashion Show; a highlight which raises thousands of pounds for The Christie."

The new Senior Division Captains are Emma Griffiths and James Strong, who will be supported by Vice-Captains (Academic) Adeline An and Ross Hallinan and Extra-Curricular Vice-Captains Talia Clark and Henry Gouge. Emma, who hopes to become a barrister, said: "As School Captain, I see myself as the link between teachers and students. I want to be seen as a person who anyone can talk to, ask questions of and see as a friend."

James, who is both a hugely talented sportsman and musician and wants to read Computer Science at university, said: "I am excited to be representing King's at internal and external events and want to encourage younger pupils to participate in extra-curricular activities, just as I have done."

## Spell-binding performances wow audiences

Earlier this year, parents and family members packed the Jackson Hall for two spell-binding performances.

Senior pupils transported audiences to 1920s New York, for superbly slick performances of *Guys & Dolls*. At the heart of the gloriously kitsch caper were two love affairs: one between Nathan Detroit and Miss Adelaide that has been on a knife edge for 14 years; the other a last minute date with destiny for Sky Masterson and Sally Army Captain Sarah Brown.

Year 12 Seb Fitzgerald made a wonderful, wisecracking wide boy, looking for any and every angle to make a buck. Phoebe Harrison's Miss Adelaide was infectiously funny, with the pair butting up against each other with faultless timing, like two Broadway veterans.

Charismatic baritone Jake O'Donnell did more than justice to role of Sky Masterson, made famous by Marlon Brando. Ava Bygrave played his heart's desire, looking easy in the limelight. Raph Sherry was brilliant as the iconic fixer Nicely Nicely Johnson. He



formed an almost telepathic double act with the whacky William Gandy as Benny Southstreet. The cast brilliantly portrayed a range of other characters whilst the school band kept a delightful tempo throughout the two-and-a-half-hour spectacular.

A few weeks later, Year 6 thespians took to the stage with their brilliant



performance of *Oliver!* featuring 72 children. Jack Tomlinson as Oliver was endearing and a perfect foil to James Whittle's Dodger, full of energy and effervescent stage presence.

Sofia Sherratt, as Fagin was impressively charismatic. William Taberner's Mr Bumble formed a word-perfect comic duo with Martha Thomas as the ever-demanding Widow Corney. Sophie Evans, as Nancy, provided beauty and strength, but was powerless in the face of George Kinsey's manic Bill Sykes, while the Year 6 chorus, wowed the audience with singing and dancing.

# House ACTIVITIES Day

At the end of May, our Senior pupils had the opportunity to compete for their Houses and enjoy a range of new activities during our House Activities Day.

During our House Activities Day, pupils enjoyed events including Orienteering, Water Polo, Venetian mask making, Disc Golf, gardening, origami, debating, baking and many more. The day provided the opportunity to learn new skills, at the same time as working with pupils in other year groups in the House spirit! The challenge of working with new people and integrating into the wider school community is an important one.

Mr Cooper, Deputy Head, said: "We are excited about this annual event and the range of ever-more exciting and diverse opportunities that the staff provide. Pupils loved the addition on Anime, VR and music tech this year, alongside other favourites. House activities continue to be an important part of school life at King's, bringing out pupils' competitive nature!"



## Charity begins at school...

Each year at King's, pupils, staff and parents support a significant number of charities through a broad and often spectacular range of fundraising activities. Our Charity Prefects choose and spearhead the fundraising events, but they rely on the support of all our pupils to make them a success.

Last term, pupils undertook our first-ever Charity Fundraising Triathlon: three significant charity events in the same week in aid of two charities. The first was a 24-hour Swimathon, where

pupils and staff from all divisions swam, around the clock, in our fabulous pool to raise money.

Starting early on Friday morning, our Infant and Junior pupils swam 85,188 meters between 9am-4pm. Senior pupils then swam throughout the evening and night, clocking up 124,475 meters before handing over to staff who swam during the night, contributing 22,325 meters, bringing our whole school total for the 24-hour event to 231,988 meters, which is

just over SEVEN times across the English Channel! A huge well done to everyone who took part, it was a fantastic community event. We also managed to raise a fantastic amount of money for Shelter and Water Aid. Overall, the Swimathon raised £1,416 for Water Aid.

Our Infant & Junior pupils also undertook a 'Water Aid Relay', to raise money for Water Aid by transporting heavy buckets of water from Spencer Brook to the Junior Wellbeing Garden, replicating the journey made by hundreds of children around the world each day to drink fresh water.

The third activity was a sponsored Sleep Out, where 15 brave students and seven members of staff took part in the 'Big Sleep Out' to raise awareness and money for the homeless charity Shelter.

The evening began with a campfire followed by a relaxing yoga before setting up camp in front of the school under the canopy. After finally settling down for the cold night ahead, a very small amount of sleep (two hours at most) was enjoyed by everyone.

"The evening really opened our eyes to the harsh reality of life for so many who sleep rough across the UK," said Year 12 pupil Seb. The events raised £2,201 for Shelter.

Thank you to everyone who took part in all three activities and to those who supported us with sponsorship and donations.



### Art in the community

Congratulations to all current students, staff and alumni who exhibited their artwork at Anthony Collins Solicitors incorporating Jobling Gowler earlier in the year. From the sale of artworks a total of over £740 was raised for two local charities, Visyon and East Cheshire Eye Society.

### Rossendale Trust

This academic year has seen the start of a new partnership with The Rossendale Trust, a charity which provides supported living to adults with learning and physical disabilities. One day each week, Chris and his carer join our wonderful catering team. Chris plays an important role in preparing the vegetables and fruit for pupils' lunches, while gaining experience of working in a professional kitchen.





RUGBY

## U14s crowned national champions



The U14 boys rugby team won the School Sports Magazine National Cup. Having beaten Prince Henry's Grammar School Otley 20-15 in the quarter-final and then Northampton School for Boys 6-3 in the semi-final, the boys took on Collegiate School from Bristol in the final. King's took a healthy 19-0 lead into the half-time break, courtesy of tries from Hayden Oliver, Alfie Tinkler and Harry Ashbrook, with Hayden Oliver also converting twice.

The second half was a more even affair but two further tries from Harry Ashbrook saw King's into a 29-7 lead with six minutes remaining. Collegiate scored two late tries, but as the final whistle sounded the boys celebrated heartily after a fantastic 29-19 victory. It was a fitting end to another wonderful 15-a-side season for the boys, who won 17 of their 18 matches. Individually, eight of the U14 squad have been selected in the Sale Sharks DPP.

The 1st XV retained the Cheshire Cup with a rousing performance against St Ambrose at Wilmslow Rugby Club. With three minutes to play and King's three points down, Sale and England U18 centre Toby Wilson kicked through from the edge of his own 22, he kicked through once more before winning the foot race to touch down and

send his teammates and the King's support into raptures.

In the National Cup, the squad reached the quarter-final stage, and overall achieved a 75% win rate. The U16s reached the Cheshire Cup semi-final as well as day two of the Rosslyn Park competition. Five players have been selected in the Sale Sharks U16 Academy: Millar Anderson, Charlie Kaye, Sam Keep, Arthur Scrase and Christian Smith.

The U15s achieved a 65% win rate and can look back with pride on their victory in the Cheshire Schools 7s competition, as well as reaching the final of the Myles Marshall 7s. Ten of their squad have been selected for the Sale Sharks DPP. The U12s became the first U12 team to beat QEGS Wakefield, and some 61% of the boys represented King's rugby over the season.

Additional individual accolades go to: Toby Wilson (England U18s and Sale Sharks U18s); Freddie Griffiths (Sale Sharks U18s); Noah Wolstenholme, Ollie Jones and Christian Tattum [captain] (North of England U18s); Noah Wolstenholme, Christian Tattum, Ollie Jones, Ed Reynolds, Koby Wilkinson, Fred Riordan, and Evan Williams (Cheshire U18s); Fred Riordan (Lamb's Independent Schools).



## CRICKET



The cricket season started with some excellent successes for all teams. The School made good progress in the Cheshire Cup games with all boys' and girls' teams still in the cups at the quarter final stages. Girls cricket goes from strength-to-strength, with growing numbers, as we welcome LSHAuto/Mercedes Macclesfield as the new girls' cricket sponsor.

The school is also able to boast a larger-than-ever cohort of senior cricketers who are playing representative cricket: Joe Moores was selected into the Lancashire Academy and has played for Lancashire 2nd XI this season, Liam Yahathugoda has been playing Lancashire Emerging Player fixtures and is trialling for the North of England U15. Lewis Wheeldon, Christian Smith, Leo Burns, Alfie Usher, Oliver Hodgson, Oscar Howarth, Ben Holder, Gabe Adamson, Tom Kenny and Amelia Grace are all representing their full County age group sides with many others playing district cricket for Cheshire.



## EQUESTRIAN



Congratulations to King's Equestrian Squad for an exceptional season securing qualification for 11 National Championship classes within the disciplines of Dressage, Arena Eventing and Show Jumping, going on to win the team prelim dressage final at Hickstead and secure several podium positions. Well done to Poppy Holding, Ruby Ambrey Brosnahan, Oliver Ravenscroft, Libby James, Lacey Barton-Firbank, Ruby Barton-Firbank, Grace Cornick, Lily Cornick, Emily Carter and Antonia Heptinstall.

## NETBALL



The U14 girls secured a fantastic 4th place finish in the National Schools Netball finals, competing against the top 18 schools in the country. Having topped their group with seven wins from eight, King's faced Berkhamsted (the eventual winners) in the tightest of semi-finals. Despite some determined defence, the team lost 12-13 in extra time. Success for the U14s was not confined to the national stage; for the third year running they won the Cheshire County tournament.

In other national tournaments, the U13s reached the quarter final of INSC Plate. Both the U12s and U13s finished runners-up in their Cheshire County



Tournament. As U19 defending County champions, King's made a strong start but were beaten in the semi-finals by the eventual winners Sir John Deane's, going on to secure bronze medals after an epic battle with Wilmslow saw them win 11-10 thanks to a golden goal from Bea Worlock.

Lydia Hine has continued her training with the England Roses Academy and has also been captain of Manchester Thunder U19s. Esme Sutton gained a place on the National Welsh U15 Academy, and alongside Jessica Leslie, has been part of the Cheshire Player Development Pathway (PDP). Lalli Brown has been selected for the Greater Manchester PDP. Hattie Usher represented the Cheshire Academy in a four-day tour of Jersey winning Coaches Player for her outstanding contribution. Lottie Baxter has represented both Manchester Thunder U14s and Cheshire PDP. Eva Sheppard, Anvi Lalwani and Naina Vasireddy have been training with Cheshire U13s. Orla Nash has worked hard with both Cheshire and Manchester Thunder

U12s. Madi Baxter has continued on her netball coaching journey, guiding and supporting a Cheshire academy of 26 junior athletes.

The Year 6 girls won the Macclesfield League Tournament and also enjoyed considerable success in the Macclesfield League matches, winning all of their matches to finished as league champions. At the U11 AJIS Netball tournament, the girls dug in to claim a highly commendable 4th place overall.



## HOCKEY



The U12 and U13 girls played some excellent hockey and were crowned County Champions. In addition, the U13s finished as North-West runners-up. The talented U14s won the North-West Regional Finals and qualified for the National Tier 2 Finals. The girls only narrowly missed out on lifting the County Cup after a defeat to The Grange on flicks.

The U16 girls, led by Poppy Fletcher, had a tremendous run in the U16 National Finals. Their journey, which included a wonderful 3-2 round 3 win at Rugby School, ended in the quarter-final stage. The senior girls again demonstrated the strength of girls' hockey at King's. They were runners-up in the County tournament as well as at the Cheadle 7s. At U19 level, the team reached the National Plate quarter-final stage.

The U19 boys reached the quarter-finals of the Independent Schools Plate. The 1st XI boys, who were led



by Archie Offer throughout the season, were unfortunate not to progress to the finals day in losing 3-4, having led 2-0 at one stage - Reuben Frodsham produced a man of the match performance.

The U12 boys produced some fantastic hockey and came 3rd in the North Finals. The U13s showed progression over the season, winning 15 matches and scoring 74 goals. The U14 boys had a very good year, reaching the North-West Finals as well as the

Cheshire Cup Final. The U16s reached the National Plate quarter-final, whilst the U15s finished the MGS Powerplay Tournament as Plate winners.

There was significant hockey success in Juniors. The Year 6 boys finished as IN2 North-West Champions and also won the AJIS Hockey tournament. The Year 6 girls produced some excellent hockey and secured 2nd place in the AJIS competition. At the IN2 hockey tournament, the girls won 3 games convincingly and drew the other to finish 1st overall, thereby qualifying for the North-West Finals, where they finished in a very pleasing 3rd place.

Individually, Callum Richardson and Poppy Fletcher were selected for the England Hockey Talent Academy. Ruben Tilling Jones, Hattie Ellis, Aaliyah Hammad, Liv Byrne and Sadie Campbell were involved with the Tensworth setup, whilst many pupils achieved County representative honours.

## Bursary Fund Golf Day



A team of four parents won the Alan McInnes Bursary Fund Golf Day with a record-breaking score. Established some 30 years ago by former King's pupil and teacher, Alan McInnes, the golf day raises money for the bursary fund. Alan had a glittering sporting career first playing for Sale

RUFC before transferring to Salford, then coaching Wigan to the Rugby League Challenge Cup.

The winning team, captained by Steve Creswell, consisted of Neil Price, James Phillips and John Usher (pictured above). Head, Mr Slack, said: "The Alan McInnes Golf Day attracts amazing sponsorship and raised £7,000 to support one of our key long-term missions; to enable children who might not normally be able to come to King's to enjoy what we believe is a wonderful education."

## John hangs up his boots

John Percival is retiring after 39 years as pupil, teacher and coach at King's. He returned to his old school to spend 32 years teaching geography, coaching rugby and, occasionally, cricket and leading Duke of Edinburgh expeditions.



John is a strong role model and a natural, charismatic communicator. He said: "I like to think that my style owes much to my own teachers: Peter Matthews, Keith Perris, Barry Edwards, Dai Jones, Mike Hart, Mark Harbord and the like, who were great academically but also multi-dimensional and superb communicators both on a one to one basis and in front of the class."

### Alumni DIARY DATES



- **SUMMER SOIREE & CLASS OF 2023 REUNION**  
Wednesday 3 July
- **DRINKS IN THE CITY | Manchester**  
Thursday 26 September
- **DRINKS IN THE CITY | London**  
Thursday 21 November
- **ALUMNI CHRISTMAS LUNCH**  
Wednesday 11 December

**Lucy Atkinson**, Year 9, who passed ABRSM Flute Grade 8.

**Connie Brentnall**, Year 6, who was awarded a Distinction in ABRSM Cornet Grade 3

**Harriet Bright**, Year 9, who was awarded a Distinction in ABRSM Clarinet Grade 8.

**Toby Cooper**, who has qualified to play in the IMG World Junior Golf Championships in San Diego in July.

**Alex Cooper**, Year 10, who was awarded a Distinction in ABRSM Grade 5 Singing.

**Emily Danby**, Year 9, who was awarded Distinction in her ABRSM Grade 6 Alto Saxophone.

**Fraser Day**, Year 13, who passed ABRSM Trombone Grade 8.

**Christopher Drake**, Year 13, who passed ABRSM Trombone Grade 5.

**Dylan Eldershaw**, Year 13, who was awarded a Distinction in both ABRSM Grade 6 Piano and Grade 8 Violin.

**Minnie Farooq**, who was part of the successful U15 Bramhall Netball team who were crowned champions at the ENG Sportsuk1 Championship in Gloucester.

**Daisy Franks**, Year 7, who achieved a Distinction in ABRSM Grade 2 Singing for Musical Theatre.

**Ava Greenway**, Year 5, who was awarded a Distinction in ABRSM Initial Grade Piano and Grade 1 Piano.

**Aaliyah Hammad**, Year 8, who passed ABRSM Cornet Grade 5.

**James Hartley**, Year 13, for a 7 Wicket Haul representing the cricket 1XI vs NULS.

**Freddie Hempstock** and **Josh Phillips**, who have progressed onto Sale Sharks U16s Academy.

**Alice Hodgson**, Year 6, who passed ABRSM Singing Grade 1 and was awarded a Distinction in ABRSM Initial Grade Piano.

**Piper Jepson-Freeman**, Year 1, who came second in her NSEA competition and has qualified for the school championship in August.

**King's Trampoline team**, who were victorious at the National Championships, winning four team Gold medals and five team Silver medals. A further four pupils were awarded individual Silver and Bronze medals.



**Isabella Lyons**, Year 10, who represented Wales in the Mounted Games at the Royal Windsor Horse Show.

**Edward Marsden-Smith**, Year 5, who was awarded a Distinction in ABRSM Trumpet Grade 3.

**Penelope O'Brien**, Year 8, who was awarded a Merit in ABRSM Piano Grade 2 and passed ABRSM Grade 5 Flute.

**Lorcan Pfister**, Year 11, who achieved a Distinction in ABRSM Baritone Grade 5.

**Jenny Wallace**, Year 13, who achieved a Merit in ABRSM Trombone Grade 8.

**Alexa Watkins**, Year 11, who was selected for the Scotland U18 Girls Waterpolo Squad and is working towards the EU Nations Competition in BRNO, Czech Republic in November.

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