

Ilustria

2023/24



Illustra CONTENTS 2023/24



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Year 4 trip to
Roman Chester

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Head of Foundation's REPORT 2023/24

Jason Slack, Head of Foundation at King's, takes a look back at the highlights of the school year.

It is an absolute pleasure to celebrate with you the achievements of our pupils and wider community during 2023/24.

In particular, it brings me a great deal of pride to report on the academic successes of the year. At A Level, a remarkable 20% of all grades were at grade A* and 49% of all grades were A*/A. Around half of all A Levels taken were an A or above and a third of Year 13 gained grades of 3 As or better. Incredibly, 92% of those pupils going on to university achieved their first choice and six students joined degree-level apprenticeship schemes. We will follow the onward success of our Sixth Formers with interest – they are undoubtedly destined for greatness beyond school.

These A Level results represent our best (externally assessed) performance in the last eight years, and it is a reflection of the academic progress that King's continues to make.

At GCSE level, we had another excellent year. We gained almost 60% of all results at grades 9–7 (A*/A) and a third of pupils achieved at least 9 grades of 7 (A) and above.

The school has established a reputation for a sustained and upward trajectory of academic achievement as demonstrated by our A Level and GCSE results. Our inspirational learning environment and innovative teaching helps our young people reach the highest academic standards. It's also incredibly satisfying and rewarding for teachers to be part of this growth in our academic excellence.



Our extra-curricular provision continues to be a central part of the school ethos, putting personal development as well as learning at the heart of our community. Our production of *Guys and Dolls*, performed in the Jackson Hall in the Spring, was a fabulous celebration of the very best of 20th Century musical theatre. Eye catching, ear tingling, slick and superb. Of course, a fabulous performance means very little without an audience and the show played to over 1,000 people across its three-night run. Most rewarding for me was watching the cast perform as they were clearly enjoying every second of it.

During the summer holidays, King's was transformed into 'Cranmede Academy' – the school in the long-running CBBC children's series *So Awkward Academy*. As the location for the

filming for eight weeks of the summer, it was a great opportunity for many of our pupils to get involved as 'extras'.

Music also continues to make great strides, as seen with our concert programme last year. In particular, the standard and quality of music continues to keep getting better and better with both growing participation and excellent variety. The *Music for a Summer's Evening* Concert was a highlight and a strong indicator of our continued strength as retiring Year 13 pupils made way for younger pupils who confidently stepped up to the mark to show leadership and musical talent in equal measure. I'm looking forward to some excellent concerts in the year ahead.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award continues to thrive within the school, with 120 pupils taking the Bronze Award last year, 65 started Silver and 35 have signed up for Gold. This represents an increase on the previous year in this area of our holistic focus on developing of broader skills and character.

Our commitment to personal development through outdoor education was further demonstrated and recognised with the school winning the Manchester Education Award 2023 for pupil wellbeing for our King's Compass programme.

This innovation started in our Infant and Junior Division and now

• Continued overleaf

Head of Foundation's REPORT 2023/24



extends into Year 7 where pupils have timetabled lessons that take place outside, in the fresh air, and develop skills such as teamwork, confidence and independence. It was amazing to see staff at the glitzy awards ceremony in their dinner jackets when only hours earlier they were wading barefoot through mud while delivering a Compass session to pupils.

It is difficult to recall a year in living memory where the school has experienced so much sporting success. This year, pupils achieved national champion status in no less than three different sports.

Our trampolinists won the national championships in four different categories. Such is our strength and popularity in this sport, it has become routine to make such announcements, although it shouldn't be underestimated how much time and commitment goes into this success. We are also National Dressage Champions in Equestrian Sport – and it was quite the sight taking the winning team photo in front of school as all riders brought their horses in to celebrate their success. In a sport that requires a huge amount of

commitment 'behind the scenes', it was lovely to give the pupils their moment of recognition.

Our U14 rugby team are also national champions – the first time we have held a national 15-a-side title in this sport. In the final, held at Rugby School, it was a relief that the team raced to an early 19-0 lead against Collegiate School, Bristol, and final result of 29-19 was thoroughly deserved by King's as the stronger team.

We've reached the latter stages of national competitions (at least quarter-finals or final day tournaments) in a large number of other sports and age categories including: U14 Girls' Hockey and Netball, the latter coming 4th in the country, as well as U16 Girls' Hockey, U19 Girls' and Boys' Hockey, and U18 Boys' Rugby. We are also County Champions in U15 Boys' Cricket, U12 Boys' Cricket (unbeaten all year), U13 Girls' Hockey and U18 Rugby.

It is also great to see our girls' cricket continue to grow both in popularity and success – our U13 team were County runners-up and our U15 team reached the semi-final stages of their tournament. Last year, seven pupils gained

national or international honours in sport. This year, we've added to this list with a further eight names including water polo, equestrian, handball and, most recently, U19 cricket. And such is the variety, I feel sure we will add to this, perhaps in wheelchair basketball where we have a pupil on the England pathway.

Given all of this success, there is no wonder we reached the final of the *Independent School of the Year Award* in the Sporting Achievement category. This takes us to the last six schools in the country and recognises our achievement and astonishing breadth of opportunity. Across Years 7-10, 79% of pupils have represented King's in sport during the last year in the 20 different sports the school offers.

Our success does not stop with sport or performing arts. No fewer than 22 pupils achieved Gold Medals in the Junior Maths Challenge, while our Engineering Team once again excelled, earning an Engineering Development Trust gold award and being recognised for their excellent team work by the judging panel. A team of Year 10 computing wizards came third

in a nationwide competition from a field of 600 schools in the British Interactive Media Association Digital Challenge.

Each year, our King's community supports a significant number of charities through a broad range of fundraising activities, spearheaded by our pupils and charity prefects, who take the lead in proposing and championing different charities, as well as organising and taking part in fundraising activities. Throughout the year, pupils and staff raised £45,000 for charity, but just as impressive is the amount of time and energy pupils give to charity.

This year, we undertook our first ever Charity Fundraising Triathlon; three significant charity events in the same week. We had a 24-hour swimathon, with staff and pupils swimming around the clock in our fabulous pool – eventually swimming the equivalent of seven times across the channel. Junior pupils held a Water Aid Relay, transporting buckets of water from Spencer Brook to our wellbeing garden, and Senior pupils had a sponsored 'Sleep Out' to raise money for homeless charity, Shelter.

Our wonderful parent committee, Friends of King's, remains a fantastic source of support. Over the year, they raised a staggering £42,427 through a series of events and second-hand uniform sales. Around half of this has been re-invested in items benefiting pupils, including equipment for clubs and DofE expeditions. Huge thanks go to the committee officers as well as committee members and volunteers who help run events. Your commitment, time, energy and passion for running events and reinvesting in the school is much appreciated.

At the end of this academic year, the School said farewell to a number of long-serving members of staff. Full tributes are paid to them in the *Hail & Farewell* chapter, but I would like to mention here the enormous debt of gratitude the school owes to Jonathan Spencer Pickup, our retiring Director of Finance. A former King's pupil (1971 – 1982), Jonathan served as Director of Finance for 20 years. He was instrumental in the school's move to our wonderful new campus, bringing his previous experience working for a major

civil engineering firm to the project. Current and future pupils will continue to benefit from Jonathan's legacy of a thriving and vibrant school housed within incredible facilities. We will all miss Jonathan's wise counsel as well as his appreciated camaraderie.

Sadly, the current political landscape means there are some challenging times ahead for the independent sector, with the introduction of VAT on school fees. For our part, King's must continue to offer the best education for our pupils so the investment our hardworking parents make continues to be justified. We must remain dynamic and ambitious in our approach and sustain a level of excellence in our teaching and learning and in our emphasis on the broader, holistic education of children – the whole child. We are superbly well placed to meet these challenges head on, maintaining our aspiration and fulfilling our aims.

*Jason Slack,
Head of Foundation*

King's gets CREATIVE

Creative expression is incredibly valuable and, at King's, we're lucky to have so many talented, creative pupils. Here is a small selection of their amazing work from Pre-School up to Sixth Form.

Creative
WORK



Pre-School

Butterfly symmetry collage by Emily Brierley



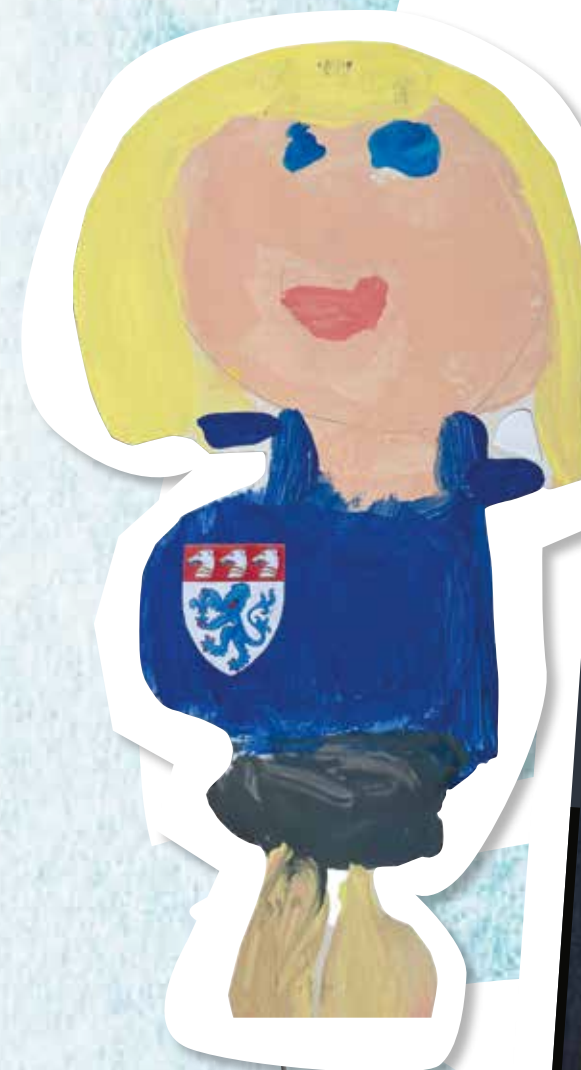
Pre-School

Painted handprint hedgehog by Hallie Peirce



Reception

Self portrait by Sebastian Beardsell



Reception

Self portrait by Zara Davidson



Pre-School

Four seasons collage by Mimi Kirkpatrick

Sunday 2nd September 1666

I woke up in the middle of the night I got up and I looked out of my window and I saw a fire. I heard people screaming and shouting get out! I saw houses crashing down and people running away. I felt terrible and sad. I could smell smoke in the air and houses burning down. I am going to see King Charles II and tell him to pull the houses down to stop the fire from spreading.
samuel pepys

Year 1

Great Fire of London letter by Alex Edgeworth



Year 2

William Morris-inspired artwork by Josh Reckless



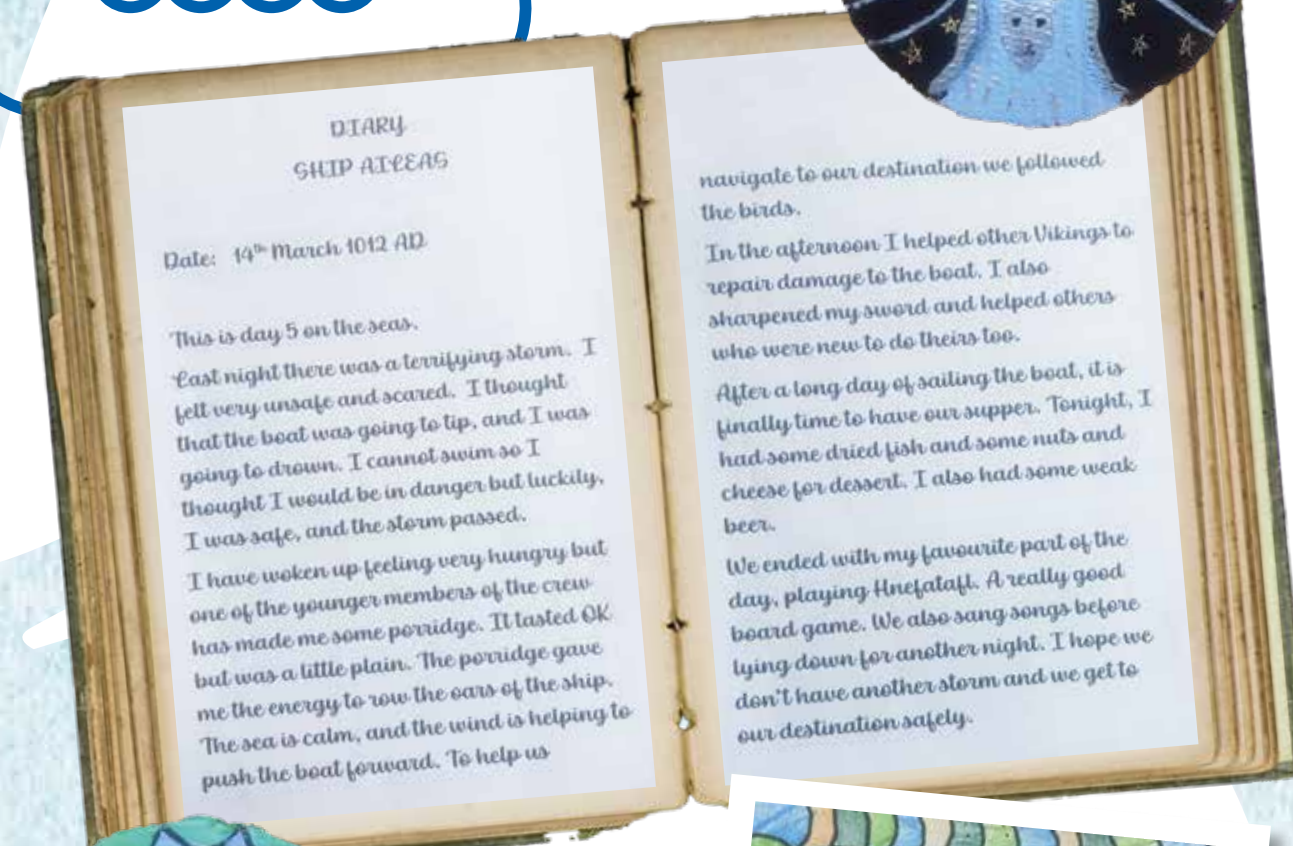
Year 3

Landscape inspired by David Hockney, using mixed media by Hughie Fareham



Year 1

L.S Lowry-inspired artwork by Grace Nuckley & Yash Allen



Year 4

Viking-inspired artwork including two shields by Alice Tomaszewski (top) & Grace Unwin (above); Viking illuminated letter by Darcy Hopper and Viking diary entry by Zara Fineberg



Year 5

DT project to create
a bird hide by Alex
Tidman, Charlie Ellis,
Max Healey, Daniel Hill
& Gabe Massey



Year 6

Ella Robb's ink drawing
of an iris and summer
snowdrop, based on work
by artist James Bolton



Year 5

Mayan silk painting
by Thea Grady



Year 5

Endangered animal
painting on canvas by
Jacob George



Year 7

Clay faces project, focusing on emotions
and facial expressions



The Legend of the Heshtahn

Isla Turner, Year 7

Thunder rumbled, rain screeched and lightning clashed as the storm-blackened sky wailed its fury. Terrified citizens sprinted for shelter, refuge from the sky's outburst. Bright white strikes scorched the ground grey, filling the air with the scent of smoke and fire. People watched from their windows in horrified fascination: nobody had seen a storm like this in millennia. Had they angered Zeus? What was going on?

Suddenly, a golden split appeared in the thunderclouds. The villagers, certain that the king of the gods himself was here to smite them into oblivion, ran around inside their houses screaming and praying. Some covered under tables, some stood petrified and a few simply braced themselves for the destruction that was sure to follow.

It never came.

Those who dared to open their eyes saw the golden split widening, the storm clouds being yanked away by an unseen force, and the rain becoming a beautiful rainbow that stretched over the village. Sunlight shone down on the miraculously undamaged rooftops, and white wisps of cloud bobbed across the clear blue sky. Nobody moved. You could have heard a pin drop as they stared at the perfect landscape around them. Then, as one, the people flung open their doors and ran to bask in the sun. They thought that the gods had blessed them, and they were almost right.

Almost.

Under the too-perfect sunlight, strange things began to happen. Waterlogged, scorched crops grew back into perfect, golden rows. Fallen trees creaked as they pulled themselves back up. Houses glistened as if they had been scrubbed clean. The villagers saw nothing, suspected nothing.

A crash of thunder brought them back to their senses. Lightning struck the ground, and the sky turned blood-red. Citizens sprinted back to their homes, only to find the doors locked and unopenable. Another burst of golden-white light appeared, fighting with the red storm clouds. Then, the strangest thing yet: a raging portal appeared in the sky, phasing between a perfect blue sphere and an angry, red rip in the fabric of space-time.



Year 8

Wire self portraits
(from top) by
Noah Worthington,
Thomas Nugent &
Duru Erakalin



Year 9

Sculpted paper wreaths



Beneath the Bloodied Skies

Penny O'Brien, Year 8

In distant lands where hope was lost,
A refugee's journey, tempest tossed.
Through barren deserts, they did roam,
Seeking solace, a place called home.

Their hearts burdened by shattered dreams,
Yet resilience flowed like sacred streams.
In the face of trials, they stood tall,
United they refused to fall.

Across the borders they did flee,
Leaving behind what used to be.
Whispering prayers for a better fate,
They carried stories of love and hate.

Their eyes spoke volumes, filled with pain,
But still compassion did sustain.
For in their souls a fire burned,
A yearning for the lessons learned.

They sought a world that would embrace,
Their culture, faith and their humble grace.
In search of freedom, they dared to dream,
A life unburdened like a flowing stream.

Their resilience, an attestation to the soul,
Their stories, a testament to be told,
For every refugee, a voice that yearns,
For understanding, acceptance, and equal turns.

Let us not forget, in times of ease,
The struggles faced, like a gentle breeze.
For within every refugee's plight,
There lies a beacon of hope shining bright.

So let us open our hearts and minds,
Extend compassion, leave no one behind.
For in this world, we are all the same,
Seeking refuge from life's burning flame.



Year 9

Ceramic fish by
Sul Saleen, Alana Craven
& James Unsworth

My Brilliant Friend

In the heart of a bustling city, where the streets hummed with the rhythms of life, there existed an unlikely duo bound by the unbreakable ties of friendship. It was a friendship forged in the fires of childhood, where innocence danced hand in hand with curiosity, and dreams painted the sky with hues of endless possibilities.

Meet Rossalina and Ethan: two souls as different as night and day, yet inseparable as the sun and the moon. Rossy, with her wild curls cascading down her back like a waterfall of dreams, possessed a spirit untamed by the constraints of society.

Her laughter echoed through the cobblestone alleys, a melody that spoke of mischief and wonder. On the other hand, Ethan, with his stoic demeanour and piercing gaze, was the anchor to Rossalina's wild sails.

Hugo Blackwell, Year 10

His presence exuded a quiet strength, a reassuring calm in the midst of chaos. Their friendship was a beacon of light in the dimly lit streets. A ray of hope amidst the shadows that lingered in every corner. Together, they navigated the twists and turns of life, weaving through the tapestry of adventures and challenges that awaited them.

As the sun dipped below the horizon, casting a golden hue over the cityscape, Rossy and Ethan found themselves perched atop their favourite rooftop hideout. The city stretched out before them like a canvas waiting to be painted, its secrets whispered in the evening breeze. With the skyline as their backdrop and the stars as their witnesses, they made a pact to conquer the world, hand in hand, come what may.

Creative WRITING

Creative
WORK



Year 11

Archie Robinson's GCSE work of ceramic landscape vessels, inspired by the work of Katie Smith

Year 10

Organic inspired textile hanging by Zander Hunter



Year 10

Moss, lichen, fungi-inspired mixed media art work by Monty Logsdail (left) Rudy Arnold (below)





Year 10

Organic seascape inspired ceramics (from above) by Vivi Dodd, Talia Clark, Daisy Weston and Farrah Phillips



Year 11

Magnetism, monoprints & mixed media costume by Charlotte Parker



Year 11

Drawer organiser for socks and ties, etc by Ali Solmaz

A Silent Memory

Leo Burns, Year 10

Clutching the bear-claw necklace around my neck, the memory flashes back to life.

The forest was quiet and the sun's rays peeked through the trees creating patterns of light and dark on the ground. I ventured deeper, surrounded by the gentle sounds of leaves and distant birds twittering, feeling the peaceful embrace of nature.

Suddenly, I noticed two playful bear cubs, their joyfulness catching my eye. A warm feeling came over me, but it was replaced by fear when I realized their mother, a grizzly bear, must be close. The forest hushed as the massive grizzly appeared, dark fur blending with the shadows. Panic gripped me; I clutched the necklace, anticipating danger. The bear charged, a blur of fur and muscle. I fumbled for my rifle, but when I shot the bear, it was like a pebble had hit it. Pain surged as the bear's jaws closed around me.

Desperation kicked in; I pulled a knife and stabbed the bear. Gasping, I retrieved my knife, but the bear returned with red-eyed fury. A brutal struggle unfolded, blood staining the ground. I stabbed the bear's heart, its roar echoing. Yet, the dying beast dragged me over a ravine's edge.

Now, holding the bear-claw necklace, memories come flooding back. Each claw tells a tale of survival, the cost of overcoming nature's relentless challenge. I stare at the claws, a silent memory to a battle fought in the heart of the forest.



Year 10

Portraits
by Skye
Thomas-
Nicholson



Year 11

Glass sculptures by Ella MacLeod

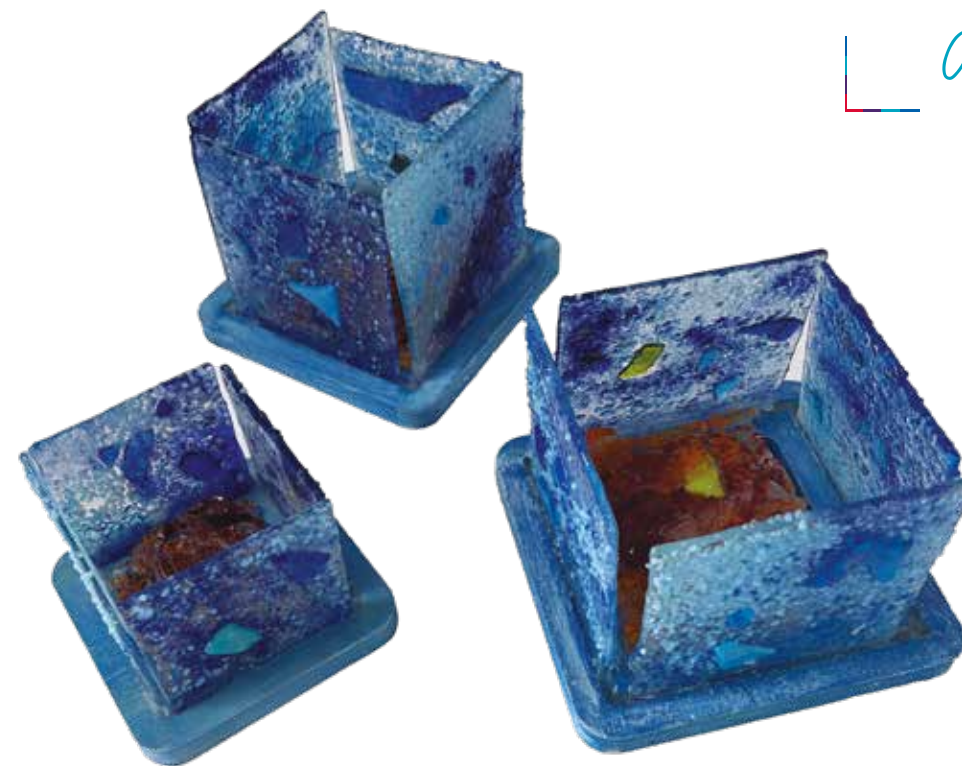


Year 11

Book secret storage
by Zach Morris

Year 11

Glass
sculptures by
Zac Farrer



Year 11

GCSE
artwork by
Tony Robinson



Year 11

Energy turbine
by Jessin John

Year 12
Macclesfield forest painting
by Rosie Johnson



Year 13
Wooden child's play unit
by Lily Poulton



Year 13
Glass
'layer
cakes' by
Robert
Mack



Year 11
Playing games box
by Caolan Coulthurst



Year 13
Felt dress
by Jemima
Jordan



Year 11
Secret wooden
storage clock
by Archie Dow

Performing ARTS

An overview of some of our most memorable shows, concerts and performances.

INFANTS & JUNIORS

In another busy year of performances, the children have delighted and shown resilience as they embarked on their many musical exploits.

Our 60 strong Junior choir has led many of our whole division events as well as performing a wonderful set of festive music at LHS Auto in Stockport.

I was particularly delighted by the success of the Easter Service, notably being brought forward by three weeks to accommodate Founder's Day. There was no loss of quality, however, and the Junior's rendition of the *Rhythm of Life* was a highlight.

Our five Recitals allowed for some wonderful opportunities for our students to share their skills and, as ever, I am grateful for the support of the Instrumental and Vocal Tutors.

There have been some notable successes from our Year 6 students and I am delighted



that Jemima Blackman, Connie Brentnall and Georgia Evans were awarded music scholarships and exhibitions to help support their studies in the Senior Division. These are wonderful achievements from very deserving students.

A Hint of Snow White

In December, the Jackson Hall transformed into the fantastical land of 'Duluxemburg' as Year 4 performed the comical 'pantomime-style' musical *A Hint of Snow White* accompanied by the tuneful Year 3 choir.

Audiences from Reception to Year 5, Senior members of staff (past and present) and parents, were entertained and very impressed with the cast's joyous singing and highly synchronised dance routines. The principal characters delivered their lines with great expression and perfect comedic timing and the enthusiastic chorus were committed and professional throughout the show.



A huge well done to all Year 4: you were an absolute joy to direct and choreograph in rehearsals throughout the term.

Year 6's Oliver!

The Jackson Hall soared to the heights of Broadway and London's West-End, as Year 6 performed 'Oliver' the musical. Audiences of friends, family, pupils. Governors and Senior members of staff were enchanted as they were transported through the traditional 'Dickens' tale by dramatic scenes and animated songs. They roared with laughter at the numerous comedic moments engineered by charismatic characters such as

Mr and Mrs Bumble, Mr and Mrs Sowerberry and, of course, the charismatic Artful Dodger.

The morals of right and wrong were clearly debated through the enigmatic miser Fagin and caring Nancy as they both struggled to protect the innocently played character of Oliver, against the brutish and menacing behaviour of Bill Sykes. Mr Brownlow demonstrated clear authority and good morals and Mrs Bedwin showed her caring nature through her actions and beautiful solo.

All of the characters delivered their lines with great expression and perfect timing, and they were committed and professional

throughout the rehearsals and performances. Soloists and group ensembles stunned and captivated all who came to watch.

The dedicated Ensemble consisted of numerous characters such as Fagin's Gang, Policemen, Maids, the Bookseller, Market sellers and Bystanders alongside the Year 6 chorus, who all wowed the audience with their tuneful singing and polished dance routines.

Well done Year 6 – you should be proud of what you achieved, and have been an absolute delight to work with.



SENIORS



2023/24 was a hugely important year for King's Music as we welcomed our biggest audiences ever (seriously, ever) for concerts, performances and events that showcased pupils' continued hard work and dedication to their music making.

In October, our lunchtime recital at St Michael's Church featured solo and ensemble performances by members of the Senior Wind Ensemble. Expertly coached and led by Mr Vowles, the group gave performances of two pieces he had arranged especially for the occasion: *A Rathlin Reel* and the main theme from Dvorak's *New World Symphony*, the latter featuring Rubi Ambrey Brosnahan on the cor anglais. With additional solo performances ranging from Albinoni to Bozza, this was a memorable concert by some of our most experienced musicians.

November's Autumn Concert set a new record for audience numbers at King's; over 300 parents, family members and friends packed the Jackson Hall to see all our Senior Division choirs and ensembles plus, for the first time, the majority of Year 7 performing on stage.

As a department we take pride in our eclectic programming and, true to form, this concert saw performances of Big Band classics (Ellis' *The Chicken*) rub shoulders with South African protest songs (*Weeping*), contemporary minimalism (Jenkins' *Palladio*) and *We*

Wish You a Merry (Jazzed Up) Christmas. Never before have I received a request, post-concert, for 'more Yazoo, please.'

In their first term, Year 7 explore voice change and musical texture as part of the curriculum; these topics were explored live on-stage in their performances of a Gospel Medley and a bespoke mashup of *Wonderwall* and *Boulevard of Broken Dreams*, all accompanied by a live student Rock Band, which raised the roof.

King's Christmas Carol Services blend the known/traditional with the new, and this year was no exception. Starting as ever with *Once in Royal David's City* (the

solo sung beautifully by Brianna Gargoles), this year's service then included new carols by Sarah Quartel; *On this Silent Night*; and Bob Chilcott; *The First Nowell*; amongst known favourites such as *Angelus ad Virginem*, the Coventry Carol and *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*.

After Christmas, our focus shifted entirely to February's production of *Guys and Dolls* (in rehearsal from September) where a large, enthusiastic cast brought the house down on three consecutive nights leading up to half term. For the majority of pupils, this was their first full-scale musical production and they rose to the challenge superbly.



In March, the Senior Choir travelled to Wakefield Cathedral to sing Evensong and gave outstanding performances of canticles by Herbert Murrill and, as the anthem, Robert Walker's *As the Apple Tree* (with its wonderful aleatoric coda sounding fantastic in the cathedral's acoustic), all expertly accompanied by Mr Dalgleish on the organ.

Every year, our Senior Music Competition (March) proves, in the nicest possible way, to be a battle royale as our most experienced musicians compete for the external adjudicator's vote. This year's adjudicator was Mr Tim Sagar, the recently-retired Director of Music at

Newcastle-Under-Lyme School, who was most impressed with a programme ranging from Bach to (Jeff) Beck via Mozart, Pienne, Muse and Les Mis.

This year, the prize for performance of the night was awarded to Dylan Eldershaw (Year 13) for his sensitive performance of the *Sarabande* from Bach's Partita no. 2 in D minor.

March's Spring Concert was, as ever, an opportunity to celebrate the range of musical interests and groups here at King's. From Bach Suites (String Orchestra) to contemporary Band repertoire (Pulsations) to Guns n' Roses (Rock Band: Lithium), it was

all here. The prize for stamina undoubtedly belonged to the Changing Voices: Boys group, with their performances of not one, but two, of the greatest through-composed pieces of music ever written: Schubert's *Erlkonig* and, of course, *Bohemian Rhapsody*.

This concert also gave us the opportunity to say goodbye to our Senior Brass Group; Fraser Day, Chris Drake and Jenny Wallace (Year 13); who, together with Mr Brown, gave stellar performances of a range of Russian masterpieces. It is a rare thing to have so many fantastic trombonists in the department at once, and they will be missed.



The Summer Term offers no rest for the Music Department. Once again, the Drama Studio was turned into a jazz club (complete with licensed bar) for King's Swings! (May), where the Big Band took to the stage for a full two sets of jazz classics.

To prepare and perform such a challenging range of music is a remarkable achievement, and was fully appreciated by a packed house. Our thanks, as ever, must go to Messrs. Dearden, Brown and Priest for all their hard work coaching the group.

Our third annual Year 7-9 Music Competition saw over 100 performances take place during an action-packed day in the Recital Hall, with pupils from all year groups roundly cheering on their peers (and eating cupcakes).

The Changing Voice groups went 'on tour' to the Lake District once again, having a fantastic weekend at Blackpool Pleasure Beach and Kendal Climbing Wall before finishing with a memorable concert at Cartmel Priory where they played and sang to a very large, appreciative audience.

The following weekend, we went to London for a packed two days of Musical Theatre with our Year 12 musicians. Opinion was divided

as to whether Les Misérables, Cabaret or Hometown was 'best'.

The final concert of the year, *Music for a Summer's Evening*, is always a highlight and this year was no exception. The repertoire for this concert is typically 'lighter' and each and every one of King's choirs and ensembles takes pride in playing their part.

Once again, the Wind Band (*Jurassic Park*, with a live dinosaur), Big Band (*Mercy, Mercy, Mercy*), Chamber Choir (*Somewhere Over the Rainbow*), and Brass Group (*Elephant Rock*) took to the stage where they were also joined by the Rock Band (Radiohead's *Just*) and Changing Voice Groups



(Boys: *Everybody Wants to Be a Cat*, Girls: *Out of the Woods*). A new development for this year was the combination of our Senior Wind and String Ensembles to make our first post-pandemic Chamber Orchestra.

Conducted by Mr Weatherley-Buss, making his conducting debut, the group gave outstanding performances of two movements from Grieg's *Holberg Suite*, arranged especially by Mr Vowles.

For the second year running, the concert finished with a joint performance by the Changing Voice Groups who performed *Abide With Me* and Imagine Dragons' *Radioactive*.

Our sincere thanks, as ever, to our fantastic team of Visiting Music Teachers who take such time and care to prepare and nurture King's musicians. Their support of our students is second to none.

James Weatherley-Buss (Postgraduate Musician) leaves us to continue his developing career as a professional composer. He has been a huge support to the department this year and we wish him all the very best for the future. Finally, a huge thank you to MEH, CW, PV and all our colleagues for their tireless support of King's musicians.





Guys and Dolls

The sell-out production of *Guys and Dolls* was a fabulous celebration of the very best of 20th Century musical theatre. Eye catching, ear tingling, slick and superb, Frank Loesser's classic adaptation of Damon Runyon's New York yarns won riotous standing ovations.

The three-night run of this gloriously kitsch caper saws students telling the tale of 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 trip for Sky Masterson and Sally Army Captain Sarah Brown that becomes a date with destiny.

Year 12 Seb Fitzgerald made a wonderful, wisecracking wide boy, looking for any and every angle to make a buck. Spouting a superb, quick-fire Bronx drawl, Seb lit up the stage - the only problem being how could he possibly have left Phoebe Harrison's Miss Adelaide on tenterhooks for 14 years. He should be so lucky. Gloriously feminine and infectiously funny, Phoebe played his put-upon sweetheart with immense style and wit, the pair butting up against each other with faultless timing, milking the rich comic dialogue like two Broadway veterans.

The other relationship builds like a tornado, the charismatic baritone Jake O'Donnell, more than doing justice to the role made famous by Marlon Brando. Jake governed

the stage, melting hearts and minds with his conversion from greedy gambler to God-fearing role model, mastering his song list with mesmerising aplomb. His volte-face was easy to understand when you saw Ava Bygrave playing his heart's desire Sarah Brown. From frosty, parish pump battler to beautifully boozy heroine, Ava looked easy in the limelight, graceful but tough, refined but ever ready to rough it to save her souls in the Big Apple's ghettos.

Guys and Dolls, however, is so much more than a romantic happy end, it has an array of misfits among its minor characters that were the making of Top Cat's crew. Raph Sherry was simply brilliant as the iconic fixer Nicely Nicely Johnson, all too easily understanding his



innuendoes with a cheeky nod to the audience. He formed a tight almost telepathic double act with the wilful and whacky William Gandy as Benny Southstreet.

Caoimhe Durkin could have come straight off the New York track as Harry Horse, while Beth Davies as Lieutenant Brannigan grew suitably frustrated as she could never quite catch up with the capers. Eleanor Heseltine as the straight-laced Sally Army General was elegant and authoritative, with Tom Bowen, Hattie James and Master of Ceremonies Brianna Gargoles starring in the ensemble.

The school band led by Musical Director Ian Crawford kept a delightful tempo with the theatre goers thinking the two and half hour spectacular had flown by.

DAF



Spotlight on BIOLOGY

The Biology Department has consistently been a beacon of academic prowess, offering a holistic educational experience that extends beyond the confines of the classroom.

Examination results from Summer 2023 were excellent, with several of our students going on to study subjects related to Biology at University, with medics, biologists, Oxbridge natural scientists and biochemists leaving the school armed with the extensive knowledge and skills gained during their time at King's.

Extra-curricular activities play a pivotal role in broadening students' understanding and passion for Biology. The department excels in providing a wide array of opportunities for students to engage with the subject outside of regular curriculum hours. One such standout feature is the immensely popular Dissection Club, which has captured the interest of both lower school and Sixth Form students. This club not only provides hands-on experience, but also fosters a deeper appreciation for the intricacies of biological systems. Aspiring medics and biological scientists in Sixth Form research and practice dissecting a specimen.

The following week they demonstrate the dissection to lower school students. This develops their presentation, communication and leadership skills whilst enthusing and motivating the younger students. This year, we have studied a wide variety of species including; cuttlefish, sheep brains, earthworms, rats, squid and mackerel. I am grateful to



the following students for their wonderful work; Leah Shadwell, Vismaya Aji, Lucy Bambrook, Madi Baxter, Emily Currie, Mandy Chen, Muna Onunekwu, Ria Sharma, Annie Smedley, Oliver Woodward, Sophie Shephard, Alice Powell, Lucy Hancock, Brooke Tew, Elijah Willcocks and the keen lower school students who have attended each fortnight.

The department actively seeks to enrich students' learning experiences by inviting external speakers to share their expertise. These interactive sessions serve to supplement the curriculum, offering valuable insights and real-world applications of biological concepts. The engaging nature of these talks not only stimulates intellectual curiosity, but also encourages students to consider the diverse career pathways within the field of biology. Each year, we invite Dr Guy Sutton to come to talk to our Biology and Psychology Year 13 students about innovations

in this field, with last year's talk focusing on the development of organoids and technology that is allowing scientists to hear peoples' thoughts. We were also delighted to welcome former student, Alison Campbell who inspired students with her talk on her work in embryology and fertility treatments.

I had the pleasure of accompanying the Year 13 Biology students, ably supported by Miss Waller, on our annual field trip, a three-day residential excursion that left a lasting impression on both students and staff alike. The trip was an enriching experience that combined scientific exploration with team work and practical learning opportunities. The primary focus of the trip was to enhance the students' understanding of ecological principles and fieldwork techniques through hands-on experiences in different natural environments.

One of the highlights of the trip was the activity on estimating population size. Students were tasked with applying various sampling methods to estimate the population size of a specific plant species in a designated area. This practical exercise not only honed their data collection skills but also reinforced the importance of accurate sampling in ecological research. Another memorable activity was the bat survey conducted at dusk. Equipped with detectors, students ventured into the woodland to identify and record different bat species based on their echolocation calls.



This practical session highlighted the importance of conservation efforts to protect these nocturnal creatures. During the field trip, students had the opportunity to explore a rocky shore ecosystem, where they conducted sampling activities to assess the biodiversity and adaptations of intertidal organisms. This deepened their understanding of ecological interactions and the unique challenges faced by organisms in dynamic coastal environments. The freshwater invertebrate sampling allowed students to investigate the diversity of aquatic life in a local river.

By collecting and identifying different invertebrate species, students gained insights into the indicator species and environmental factors influencing freshwater ecosystems. The accommodation at Cranedale Field Studies Centre was excellent, as always, with comfortable rooms and fantastic food that kept everyone well-nourished throughout the day. The conducive environment fostered a sense of camaraderie among the students, contributing to a positive and collaborative atmosphere during

the trip. In line with its commitment to academic excellence, the Biology Department consistently encourages students to participate in various competitions. These competitions not only challenge students to apply their knowledge in a competitive setting but also serve as a platform to showcase their talents on a broader scale.

Miss Waller and I took ten of our Year 12 students; Alice Powell, Lucy Hancock, Elijah Willcocks, Abdul Khalil, Daniyal Muhammad, Matthew Ennis, Oliver Woodward, Yousaf Ahmed, Hannah Reeves and Ali Hussain to Edge Hill University in June 2024 to take part in the North West Biology Olympiad Competition. The competition challenges and stimulates students with an interest in biology to expand and extend their talents.

We were treated to intriguing lectures and activities provided by the lecturers in the Biological Sciences Faculty and the students took part in various activities that assessed their speed and accuracy in obtaining results whilst enjoying the facilities at the campus. The two teams came

2nd and 3rd in a competitive field of teams from across the North West. We also entered students for the online competition with two students receiving publicly recognised certificates.

Central to the success of the Biology Department are the dedicated and skilled staff members who tirelessly nurture and mentor the students. The team of educators brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the classroom, creating a dynamic learning environment that inspires and motivates students to reach their fullest potential.

Their unwavering commitment to academic excellence and individualised support ensures that students are equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to excel in their GCSE and A-level examinations. My thanks go to Mrs Broadley, Mrs Davies, Miss Waller, Dr Williams and Mrs Hilton for their help in delivering such a high standard of teaching, coupled with innovative instructional techniques.

Kate Byrne, Head of Biology

Academic
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Spotlight on COMPASS

Now in its fourth year in the Infant & Junior Division, the King's Compass Programme continues to go from strength to strength

As we complete of our fourth year of Infant & Junior Compass lessons, we are delighted to share the successes of what is now a fully established programme and a core component of our curriculum.

King's Compass has become an integral part of life at King's, fostering resilience, problem-solving skills, and teamwork among our pupils.

The unique opportunities provided by King's Compass go beyond the traditional classroom, offering experiential learning that deepens academic understanding. Whether it's Year 3 role-playing prehistoric hunters gatherers, Year 4 constructing Viking rafts and trying their hand at axe throwing, or Year 5 recreating the solar system with natural materials, these activities bring academic concepts to life.

King's Compass significantly enhances cognitive development through hands-on activities that stimulate critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity. Pupils eagerly anticipate King's Compass Days, embracing the chance to engage in enriching activities regardless of the weather. Team-building exercises, such as the Year 4 'Aqueduct



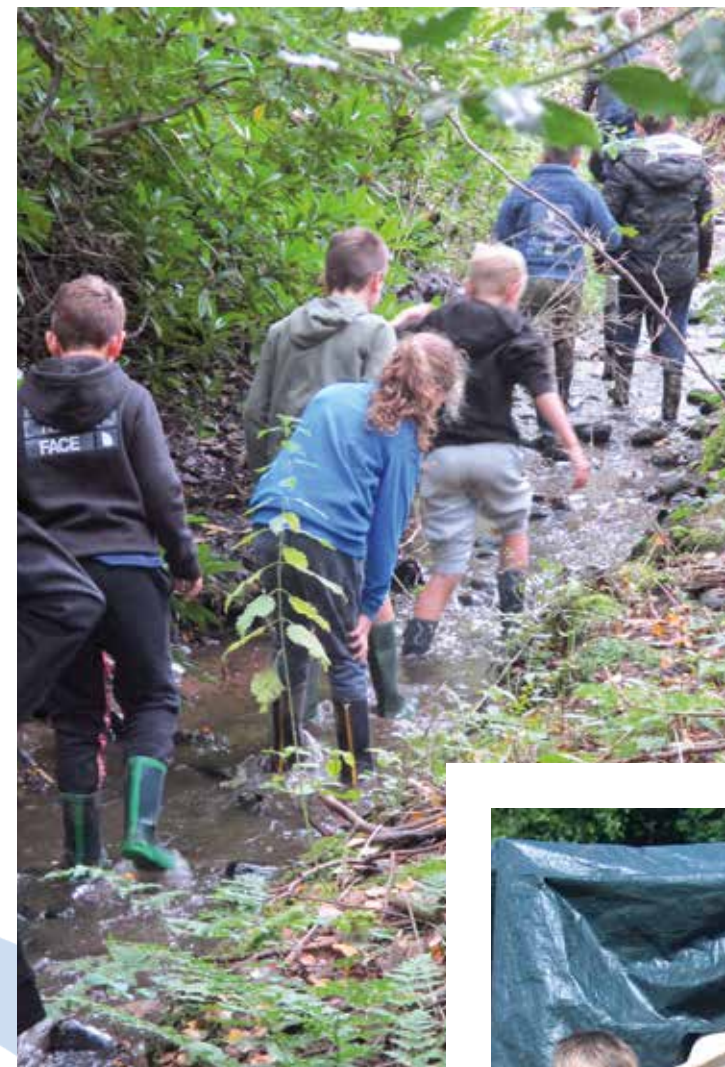
Challenge' and the Year 2 'Colour Crane,' highlight the programme's success in cultivating excellent collaborative skills.

Activities like the Year 3 River Walk, where pupils literally immerse themselves in nature as they wade through the stream in Dumbur Wood with water-filled wellies, provide direct engagement with natural world. This exposure not only tests physical endurance on cold January days but also offers vital exercise and a refreshing break from the classroom.

Additionally, outdoor activities reduce stress and improve mental wellbeing. This is something experienced by Year 2 pupils on their Dawn Chorus event, at which

pupils arrived at school at 6am to calmly witness the sunrise, listen to the beautiful spring birdsong, and enjoy hot chocolate by the fire. Such experiences nurture a love for the environment and a sense of responsibility towards nature.

This year, both pupils and staff have had tremendous fun on King's Compass days. The programme has greatly supported and enhanced our curriculum, positively impacting our pupils' personal development. We are proud to see the impact that King's Compass has had on our pupils' resilience to persevere through challenges, their skills in working collaboratively as a team, and their ability to reflect and improve in the future.



Spotlight on DRAMA



The Drama Department provides not just a core curriculum creative subject, but offers a range of opportunities for all pupils to develop a number of holistic skills, competencies and confidence.



Whilst we celebrate and recognise all the hard work that goes into the Secondary School production at King's every year, Drama at King's is so much more. One of the main reasons to study Drama here at King's is for the range of holistic skills it enables pupils to develop, including teamwork, presentation skills, body language and resilience. Drama offers the skills which will help pupils when it comes to applying and interviewing for universities and jobs.

We are not just preparing pupils for being performers but also broadening the pupils' horizons when it comes to the Performing Arts industry. From Year 7, we



study Technical Theatre, in which we look at the aspects of Lighting, Sound, Set and Costume design. Pupils are offered a backstage tour of the school production space and have the opportunity to be part of the backstage crew.

Our GCSE Drama pupils have had front of house 'meet the director' sessions, in which they have been able to discuss the director's artistic intention for both the

overall vision for the show as well as the technical intricacies. Our GCSE and AS Level pupils run the technical side of our shows as well as for the GCSE and A Level examination. Most recently, we have had a workshop with the producer of a long-running CBBC children's TV show. He introduced the pupils to the world of TV in which he explained that, for one TV show, on average there are 70 members of crew, excluding the actors; this gave our pupils a lot to think about in terms of careers they could have in the industry beyond performing.

Drama is an engaging practical subject that has so much scope within it as pupils can be examined as an actor, costume designer, lighting designer or sound designer. We also currently offer AS Level study as part of the Extended Studies programme in Year 13. We have big ambitions, as we would love to grow the department to enable us to put on more pop-up theatre pieces within school, as well as holding performance evenings in order to celebrate work that has taken place within the curriculum.

Whilst we study Shakespeare, Mime and Poetry as you may expect, at Key Stage 3, we also explore what theatre looks like in other cultures. In Year 7, pupils study world theatre traditions including: Greek theatre, Noh and Kabuki from Japan, African storytelling and Chinese Peking Opera. This is just one of the many units that demonstrates to our



pupils the diversity of the theatre genre.

In Key Stage 3, we have begun to introduce the concept of stage configuration and that not all theatre has to take place with the audience sat on one side and the actors performing on the other. Most recently, some Year 7s performed an extract of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in the school woodland area and it was a promenade performance as the audience had to follow the action around the woodland depending on where the characters were going. They all had a great time and realised the potential for a site-specific promenade performance.

Our pupils take on a wide role in the community as they have opportunities to support the pupils who are applying to medical school as the medical students must complete role plays as part of their medical school interviews. The Drama students are given the brief for a medical scenario, such as a fall and will act accordingly to give the medical student as much of a real-life scenario as possible. This has been such an exciting opportunity for the drama pupils



as they have really enjoyed working with the Year 13 pupils and having to improvise a range of scenarios. Most recently, we have had our Drama prefect visit the Year 1 classroom when they needed a Witch for their *Rapunzel* creative writing unit, and she was able to support them with the ending of their stories as the Witch needed capturing.

There are also many opportunities for pupils to volunteer within the Drama Department: pupils from Year 10 did the hair and makeup for the production of *Guys and Dolls*, pupils have organised the

Academic
HIGHLIGHTS



wardrobe and, moving forward, we would love to have some help with choreography from any budding choreographers. Dance is an area of specialism within the Drama department that we would love to grow.

It's safe to say that pupils from Year 7 to Year 13 really do enjoy their time with us within the Drama curriculum and the school community. It is so important to us that whilst they are developing key skills such as resilience, communication and collaboration they are having fun!

CED

Spotlight on EPQ

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) provides Sixth Form students with an opportunity to undertake a deep-dive study into a topic or issue of importance to them, at the same time as gathering vital skills for university study.

Students in Year 12 are encouraged to undertake the EPQ, which is an AQA Level 3 qualification that allows students to undertake a project on a topic outside of and beyond their A Level studies. It is an independent project which challenges students to manage their own time, learn research skills and make take decisions in response to challenges.

The EPQ helps to develop a wide range of skills, which are extremely valuable for future study. Universities look very favourably on the EPQ as it teaches skills which mirror undergraduate study. It is worth up to 28 UCAS points, depending on what grade a student achieves.

It is a perfect opportunity for students to pursue a topic they are passionate about – related to a career, hobby, wider interests or something they couldn't do at A Level, but wanted to.

This year's Year 12 students chose a wide range of topics, from evaluating the cultural significance of the 'Carry On' films, to assessing the value of brain surgery on life-threatening tumours and looking at mass extinction events.

Head of Extended Studies, Gemma Cunliffe, explained: "Our students have chosen a vast array of challenging subjects, all demanding a wide range of transferable skills. They need to work independently, research their topics from a wide range of sources, present them intelligently and explain their work to an audience. These are skills that are valuable to them at university and later in the wider working world."

Grace Bailey-Rushton



Grace asked the thorny, age-old question, "Does Money Bring Happiness." Grace, who is studying English Literature, History and Politics and wants to read Law with Politics, found that

disposable income is certainly beneficial to happiness, but that the mega wealthy are not necessarily happy." She added: "In fact, money has a negative impact on people who value their religion, as their spirituality and relationship with their God is deemed of far greater importance. Also, the younger generation's happiness has been lowered by social media and the apparent need to compete, but for little or no purpose."

Ollie Rogerson



Ollie, who is studying Economics, Mathematics and German, looked at the benefits of staging mega events such as the Olympics or World Cup. "The most positive impact has been felt by countries in the developing world.

The 2010 World Cup helped bring about a massive increase in South Africa's GDP and had a lasting positive impact. There was a positive effect also in Germany, but not to the same extent."

"When FIFA chose Qatar for the last World Cup, they did so because they were promised new stadiums and actually a new purpose-built city, but it came at a cost with the lives of migrant workers. In the future, there needs to be greater scrutiny of their decision-making process, which takes into greater account the economic benefits to the region."



Thomas Krassowski,

Dedicated climbing enthusiast Thomas asked whether sport climbing was more dangerous than traditional climbing or bouldering. Thomas, who is studying Maths, Physics and Chemistry and wants to take up an Engineering apprenticeship, found that sport climbing leads to more internal, potentially serious injuries, whereas the traditional climbing sees more 'bumps, scrapes and bruises.' He said: "The advice for either style is the same: to check your gear, replace rusty, worn bolts, research and understand your climb and go with a buddy who also knows the route and has good gear."

Kyna Willcocks

Kyna, who is studying English Literature, History and Art chose to recreate a stylish Edwardian ball gown worn by the then infamous socialite Heather Firkbank. After spending over 30 hours, first making a prototype and then making up her beautiful dress, Kyna said: "Heather Firkbank was a controversial figure and by studying her and recreating her style I gained an insight into Edwardian life."



Julian O'Neil

Julian, who is studying English Literature, English Language and History A Levels and wants to study journalism, felt the Carry On series had been undervalued. He said: "They were very progressive and simply not given enough credit. Carry On films such as Carry on Nurse and Carry on Doctor really applaud and value the NHS. While films like Carry on Up the Khyber puncture outdated imperialism and our perceived right to colonialism, while Carry on Abroad mocks the appalling narrow-mindedness of the English tourist abroad. Now, some current newspapers such as the Daily Mirror actually place warnings against them in their TV Listings. That's just wrong; this humour is 70 years old and must be judged of its own time, and at that time they were actually very forward-thinking."



Daisy Webb

Daisy, who is studying Spanish, Chemistry and Mathematics and wants to read Medicine, assessed the value of brain tumour removal. She said: "Around 20,000 people a year will have brain surgery to remove a tumour, some may be low-level tumours, but for Grade 4 tumours it can be that removal would dramatically reduce quality of life, with every chance that the cancer could return, in which case the doctors should be able to determine that it is inoperable. I am fascinated by the complexity of the brain, and this project has shown me that there is still so much that we don't know."



Challenge & ENRICHMENT

Challenge &
ENRICHMENT

We aim to create an environment at King's in which all pupils are challenged; we strive to present pupils with opportunities that are engaging and develop skills of evaluation, analysis and reflection. Pupils are encouraged to think about the process of learning, not simply the outcome and be unafraid to 'get stuck' in order to develop strategies for when the answers are not obvious.

INFANTS & JUNIORS

Chess

AJIS Chess Competition

In November, 16 excited Junior chess players headed to Bolton School for the annual AJIS Northwest Chess Competition. The day was intense, with five games of chess played by the Under 11s and Under 10s, and seven games played by the Under 9s.

Team coach, Mr Ireland, ensured that when the children weren't playing official matches, they were all playing practice matches with their teammates. After a tough morning of back-to-back chess and strategic thinking, the team were delighted by the arrival of Mrs Cookson, giving everyone a much-needed boost for the afternoon matches.

Every single member of the King's Junior chess team should feel incredibly proud of their efforts; they kept positive, focused and showed excellent team spirit all throughout the day. The day ended as the most successful AJIS competition for King's Juniors, ever. The U11s came home with gold medals and there were several individual placings of 1st and 2nd across all the year groups.



Year 2 Chess Challenge

It hasn't just been Junior pupils embracing the mental gymnastics of chess, a growing cohort of enthusiastic Year 2 pupils have been attending a weekly lunchtime club, again under Mr Ireland's expert tutelage. One lunchtime, they held an exciting Chess Challenge club with pupils from our Senior Division. Our Year 2s gave the Year 7 and 8s a proper run for their money!

World Languages Day

The four corners of the world came to the Infant & Junior Division in March as we marked World Languages Day to promote multiculturalism and linguistic diversity. Every year group had chosen to



represent certain countries and dress in the colours of their flag.

Corridors were a riot of colour with the pupils' vibrant outfits gracing the floors and many yards of flag bunting decking the ceilings. The quizzes associated with the flags kept many pupils guessing all week: who knew the India and Niger flags were so easily confused?

Seven Year 12 linguists visited our assemblies to give insightful and carefully-pitched presentations



about their chosen A Levels, some key phrases and why they loved studying French, Spanish and German so much.

The skill, creativity and determination with which our pupils tackled the optional homework activities was truly astounding: embroidery, sculpture, dance, cookery and music recitals accompanied many exceptional posters, PowerPoints and leaflets about specific aspects of their country.

Robotics Workshop

Enthusiastic engineers from Years 5 and 6 attended a Robotics Workshop led by Ian Botwright, a Roboteer whose creations have featured on Robot Wars. Ian was a great guide for the day, and each team of three began by building a K'NEX chassis, which then had electronics added to power each wheel via a radio controller. The teams then began to modify their

bots for the three challenges. First, the bots had to play skittles, meaning tall, wide attachments were good for this. Driving the bots was trickier than expected, but the children soon got the measure of the controllers.

Next came Robot football! This time, a scoop to contain and dribble the ball was the design, but we found that prongs tended to snap off when the bots ran into each other - not too many goals scored for team King's.

The final round was classic robot wars Sumo - push all the other bots off the mat and be Last Bot Standing. This was where our team came into their own, with several first and second places over the rounds. When the scores were totted up, King's came out joint winners for the day, having improved throughout on driving and build robustness. Well done to all of the children: we learned so much in one day!



Masterclasses

Over the year, a total of 30 pupils from across all classes in Years 2 to 6 attended Masterclasses in either Maths, Science or English, chosen by their teachers based on their aptitude, engagement and enthusiasm for the subject.

These are full-day trips out to a host school where education consultant, Aileen Hoare, probes and extends the pupils' thinking and skills on a wide range of topics, giving their accompanying teachers many useful lesson tips, ideas and games along the way.



King's hosted two of these events with four different school visiting: one for Year 3-4 English and the other for Year 2 Mathematicians.

World Book Day

On Thursday 7 March, all of the Infant & Junior children and staff got into the spirit of 'World Book Day' by dressing up as a fictional character.

Pupils shared reviews of their favourite books and characters. Fancy dress photos were taken within Year groups, and lots of book-related activities were explored.

We were delighted to welcome the delightful, interesting and talented guest author 'Julia Jarman', who engaged all of our children from EYFS to Year 6 with her creative ideas; she shared what inspires her to write and where her characters and plots evolve from.

Julia shared her book 'Class Two at the Zoo' and the historical

inspirations behind the infamous 'The Time Travelling Cat' series.

Julia truly captivated her audiences, and many bought personalised signed copies of her well-known titles.

A wonderful and magical day of books and imagination was had by all!

World Bee Day

Our whole division celebrated World Bee Day in May, turning all corridors and classrooms into one massive hive of activity. All Early Years and Year 1 children watched a live reading of the story *The Adventures of Scout* and learned about the importance of bees in our ecosystems.

Reception pupils took part in a plethora of bee themed activities. They programmed Bee Bots, did some lovely bee-themed writing, made cards and potato prints of bees, and also practised their fine motor skills with bee-yellow water (putting honey into hives). The four and five-year-olds then went to see how much the apple trees in the orchard had grown and changed since planting them back in the Autumn. They were fascinated to observe our own beehives - from a safe distance!



Paul and Sally from Happy Valley Honey, who look after the hives on our site and make the honey it produces, gave stimulating talks and demonstrations to pupils from Years 2-6. They got to see the hives and bees up close too!

Roman Chester Trip

Year 4 pupils turned into hardened Roman legionaries when they visited the Grosvenor Museum in Deva (Roman Chester) for an enriching day of talks, dressing up and marching. At the Museum, they carefully drew diagrams of a range of unusual artefacts and enjoyed browsing the exhibits in the two galleries with their friends. The climax of the day was marching from the museum to the well-preserved amphitheatre carrying shields and wearing 'armour' where they then practised forming up

into the formidable testudo (x = "tortoise") formation. The budding recruits learnt that sinister is the Latin word for left and dextra the word for right, enabling them to belt out their ear-splitting chants of 'Sin! Sin! Sin, Dex, Sin!' as they marched double-time past the slightly startled shoppers!

Year 5 Bikeability



Year 5 pupils eagerly pedalled their way to greater cycling competence as they completed the two-hour Bikeability proficiency course. Level One takes place on the playground and comprises some basic pre-ride checks, safe setting off, U-turns, indicating and slow control.

The slope of the playground made the slow cycling race even more of a challenge. All the pupils gained valuable bike maintenance and bike

handling tips and completed the training with a greatly enhanced understanding of how to stay safe and have fun when riding. They all earned their Level One badges and finished looking forward to their Level Two training next year.

Year 6 AJIS Quiz

On the third Saturday in March, 7 pupils made it to Bury Grammar for a prompt 10am start, preceded by generous portions of our hosts' finest KitKats, flapjacks and apple juice. The victuals clearly did the trick as we came away with a fantastic 2nd place finish! The children showed their extremely broad expertise across a range of very diverse rounds such as book cover close-ups, most-streamed songs, geometry, national flags and France.



Liverpool Trip

Year 3 pupils embarked on an exciting Liverpool adventure, immersing themselves in Ancient Egypt at the World Museum in Liverpool. We were lucky to be joined by our very own Egyptology expert, the wonderful Dr Zali-Schiel from Liverpool University. She took us on a thrilling journey that spanned 5000 years of life in the Nile Valley.

We also enjoyed a 'Meet the Mummy' workshop, which showed us the intricacies of the embalming process, pulling 'brains' out through a nose and extracting organs - just before tucking into our packed lunches. In the afternoon, we set sail aboard the iconic Mersey Ferry, the Snowdrop, adorned in its striking Dazzle design.

The children thoroughly enjoyed these experiences and were amazing ambassadors for our school.



China Day

Year 1 pupils enjoyed a full day activity carousel to bring their China topic to a finale. They created their very own willow-pattern plates, taking great care to ensure they had each stage of the willow-pattern story represented on their design. They cooked eagerly with Chef Hannah, and rose to the final challenge which was a 'Dragon Dance' with Mrs Few. A supportive audience enjoyed their complex creation. Special thanks to Mr and Mrs Pan who helped make Year 1 China Day such a great success.



Chester Zoo

Pupils in Year 2 enjoyed an enriching educational experience at Chester Zoo, where they studied various animals and examined how each species' unique adaptations enable them to thrive in their natural habitats. The pupils also observed the efforts made by zookeepers to replicate these natural environments within the zoo. The day was both enjoyable and informative for everyone involved. After an extensive day of walking and exploration, the children returned home tired but filled with new knowledge and fond memories.



Year 2 Dawn Chorus

Many pupils in Year 2 came into school extra early on a bracing April morning (even before the sun came up!) to listen to the dawn chorus of spring birds.

The birds did not disappoint, their loud singing sounded beautiful as it filled the crisp morning air. The children were very fortunate to have a lovely sunny morning and they were able to watch the sunrise over our school site.

Everyone enjoyed listening to the dawn chorus, making bird feeders, and sipping early morning hot chocolate around the campfire.



Reception's 'People Who Help Us'

Reception pupils had a visit from Cheshire Police as part of their topic on 'People Who Help Us'. They learnt so many interesting facts about the role of the police and how they help our community.

They asked some brilliant questions about uniform, vehicles and police animals. Some lucky pupils even got to try on uniform, although the sizing left a bit of room for growth!





Year 5 Residential Trip

In May, the whole Year 5 cohort of pupils trooped off to the stunning surrounds of the Menai Straits on Anglesey under clear blue skies for their long-awaited residential at The Conway Centre.

A former naval cadet training base (named after the lost ship, HMS Conway) its facilities are ideally placed for water-based activities. Our programme this year did not disappoint. Sailing proved immensely popular with pupils getting out on the water in both larger and smaller yachts, and a small motorboat.

The long-overdue fine weather meant that there was not a lot of wind to fill the sails, but most groups did manage to get going under wind power at least for short periods as they navigated the strait between the Centre and the Britannia Bridge. Many got a turn on watch, at the helm or 'sheeting in'.



SENIORS & SIXTH FORM



Our 'Speakers' Club' runs throughout the year in the Senior Division, to support pupils with their career planning and future aspirations. A range of speakers, often former pupils or parents, come in to talk about their career experiences.

We welcomed four former pupils back in the Autumn term. **Lyndsay Lomax** (2001 leaver) came back to school 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 leaver) 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. **Dieter Hill** (1993 leaver) came back to school in December to talk about hockey and elite sport. Dieter is the England Hockey Junior Talent Development Manager and oversees the England U16 and U18 programmes as well as leading on the Diploma in Sporting Excellence Programme. Pupils had the opportunity to learn all about the England Hockey pathway, resilience and setbacks in sport and what makes



the difference in amateur and professional sport.

Former pupil **Emily Middleton** gave our Founders' Day address in April 2024. She told the present generation 'to find and build your own teams, to stand up for others and to enjoy the journey,' as she gave the guest speech at King's Founders' Day Service.

After gaining a first-class degree from Oxford and a masters from Harvard, Emily is now a partner in the ground-breaking London based company 'Public Digital'. At the heart of empowering regional and national governments worldwide to set up digital data units to improve service delivery and policy making, Emily is at the forefront of positive change. "What is more" she said, "It all started at King's." At School, Emily "always had a go at everything".



"I was in many teams, in plays, in talent shows, in the annual gym competition and in bands. Sometimes I was the captain or the lead. Just as often I was a team player."

However, it was also organising and completing her World Challenge expedition to Bolivia at the age of just 17, volunteering for the National Children's Bureau, Amnesty International and Unicef and undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh trek that saw her find her true direction.



change, including sorting out various disagreements.

"At the end of the second day, we were asked to present our finished country to our Form before grouping up with the entire year to reveal who won with the best country in their Form and the overall year group winning project. Overall, the activities were very fun for everyone involved and we were grateful to the teachers who had prepared it for us."

Xander in Year 7 said:

"This week, all of the Year 7s took part in the annual Learning Challenge. This two-day event was very topical as it required us to create and run our very own country! Having been split into teams each of the groups was given the task to design the key elements of a country, including the name, flag design, its' language and some of the key laws.

"It was great fun to develop all of this and even more interesting to compare the differences and similarities that each team came up with. Teams were marked on their creativity and teamwork.

"This task was both fun and challenging which meant we had to give it our all. Congratulations to the overall winner 7ARP Group 4!"



Engineering Education Scheme

The Engineering Education Scheme team consisted of Ben Golia-Foxley, Annabel Hawkins, Thomas Krassowski, Asher Raymon, Charlie Saunders and Harry Shanahan with our engineering mentor John Blackwell from Opus Technical Ltd.

The project was to create a stylus attachment that could be added to any existing pen or pencil to allow it to be used on a touchscreen. This was inspired by our mentor's experience of creating a homemade stylus using the end of a pencil and some tin foil.

The team started by doing some research around the subject to learn more about styluses – different types and how they worked, how they could interact with touchscreens, and what

made a good stylus – before narrowing their focus to research things that would help us create a stylus attachment – materials and their properties, the sizes of pen, and how to make the product comfortable to use.

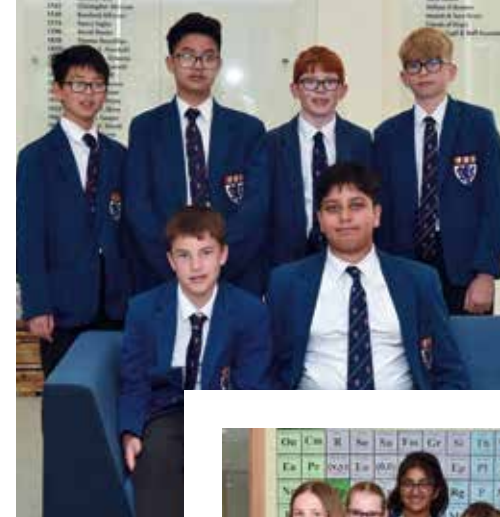
A design specification was created from this research. The team graduated as Gold Award winners at the University of Liverpool.

Year 7 Learning Challenge

Maia in Year 7 explained:

"For the Year 7 Learning Challenge, we were assigned to teams and presented with a task to design a country by first developing a flag and a name; then managing the budget and creating a language; and lastly by making a city in that country.

"Within the two days we were taught how to collaborate with others, recognise our mistakes, and reflect on what we could

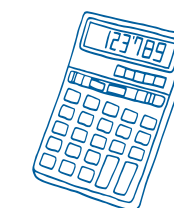


Arkwright Scholarship

Finlay Buckley in Year 11 was awarded a prestigious Arkwright Scholarship. This is a highly regarded engineering award which he worked incredibly hard for. Finlay earned one of just 200 top engineering scholarships from over 2,000 applicants nationwide.

As well as winning £250 for each of his two years in King's Sixth Form, Finlay believes winning the award will bolster his CV and create a vast range of networking opportunities. The Engineering Scholarship is named after one of the great pioneers of the Industrial Revolution, Derbyshire entrepreneur Sir Richard Arkwright, who invented the spinning frame and the water frame.

To impress a distinguished panel of judges, Finlay first completed a formal application, then sat a two-hour exam in which he designed a mini snow-gritter to help keep pathways clear, before getting selected for an interview where he had to give a presentation.



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 qualified for the UK Mathematical Association's Mathematics Olympiad.

Maths teacher Mr Robinson said: "Our Year 7 and 8 pupils have produced a very impressive set of results in a national competition that does much to enthuse and inspire the next generation."

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 UK 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).

The Year 9 and 10 pupils qualified for the Grey Kangaroo, while the Year 11 winners qualified for the Pink Kangaroo. Ultimately the winners might even qualify for the UK Maths Olympic team.



Tom Palmer author

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.

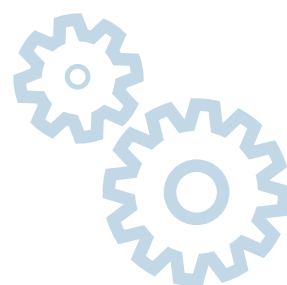
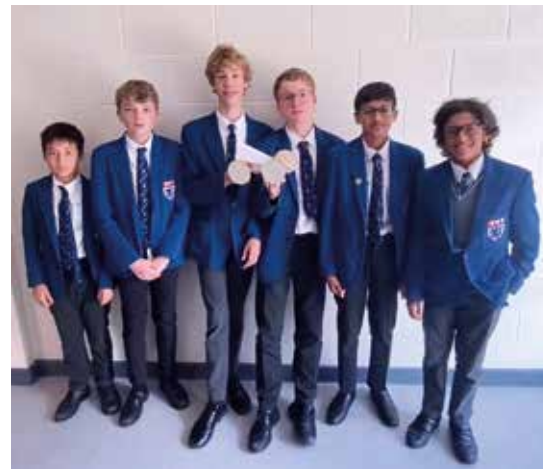
"Initially I struggled with reading and hated the very sight of a book. I eventually went on to university to read literature. So, it's important for children to read what they like – comics, sports reports, newspapers – as long as they read."

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."

Year 8 STEM Challenge

The STEM Challenge took the form of a two-day challenge and enrichment activity where the pupils were tasked to design, budget, manufacture, test drive and showcase a wheeled vehicle.

The pupils used their learning habits of collaboration, resilience, and reflection to produce the best vehicle they could within a budget. Mr Prideaux was particularly impressed by the pupil engagement, enthusiasm, and the quality of their end product.



Geographers on top of the world

A trio of talented Geography students qualified for the Geographical Association's Worldwide Olympiad. The pupils won the North West regional event, beating teams from 13 other top schools.

Challenged across human, physical and environmental geography, the team of Abdullah Atif, Robb Thomas and Jobin Joseph, showed themselves to have, as their teacher Mr Wales, said, "great understanding and empathy for the world."

The team faced a number of different rounds, including a directional challenge, such as if you went east, south-west and then north from this spot where would you be. There was a map reading challenge to determine physical features plus a picture round showing a recent global event that they had to identify, such as the Libyan dam collapse. For the more simple tasks there was also a basic challenge naming capital cities, major rivers and landmarks.



BIMA Digital Winners

The Year 10 computing team came third from over 600 teams nationwide in a prestigious competition to boost cinema footfall. Organised by BIMA, a non-profit organisation that drives innovation across the digital sector, the nationwide challenge is now seen as a blue ribbon event for young digital design.

Head of Computing Phil McKenzie said: "The BIMA Digital Challenge has become ever more popular so to come third out of 600 teams is a stunning achievement and shows innovation, excellence and originality from this top quality quartet. They were supported by our friends and sponsors from the HUT Group, a global e-commerce specialist based at Manchester Airport, who spent a day helping them refine their ideas, but the students were the ideas men."

Matthew Gass explained their thinking: "The brief was to widen appeal to the younger generation



and our concept was to show films alongside football matches and make it more of a day out for the cinema goer."

Team leader Reuben Blackhurst added: "At first we brainstormed a lot of different ideas, even being allowed to throw popcorn, but when we had a day off school to work with experts from The HUT group, we decided to concentrate on the football idea."

Will Murtheh added: "Tickets could be £50 or more at Manchester United or Manchester City; they're hard to come by and you can't go with your friends, but you could pay say £7 or £8 extra alongside your cinema ticket to see a top game and sit with your mates."

Alfie Usher added: "We think this idea really works. That's exactly what our sponsors from The HUT group thought. They said it was unique, realistic and innovative so that's what we focused all our efforts upon."





Linguistics Success

Six Sixth Form students entered the prestigious and challenging UK Linguistics Olympiad in February. They used logic and precision in working out the solutions to problems in the Lardil language from Australia, Albanian, Swedish runes, and Permyak, a finno-Ugric language of Russia. The students had no familiarity with any of these languages, and had to spot and apply patterns, in order to work out the solutions to the problems.

Benjamin Anderson and Rufus Simpson entered the competition and scored well. Reuben Elliott and Thatcher Nulty gained a Bronze Award. Oliver Rogerson and Annabel Hawkins gained a Silver Award.

This is a really impressive achievement, showing ruthless logical thought and meticulous attention to detail on the part of all these students.

Criminal Insight Day

Sixth Formers got a look at life behind bars when three former prisoners visited to tell students of the harsh reality of a criminal conviction. The day-long conference 'Behind Bars: Crime & Deviance' was hosted by King's and run by True Life Conferences to examine whether our prisons should be for punishment, retribution or rehabilitation.

Joining King's pupils for the day were fellow A-Level Psychology students from Stockport Grammar School and Manchester High School for Girls.

The conference aims to cover issues including crime prevention, the legal system, forensic psychology, drug awareness, mental health awareness and tackling stereotypes. Carey Ratcliffe, King's Psychology teacher, said: "Learning from those who have lived part of their lives behind bars gives our students a real-life glimpse not only of the true consequences of crime but of the many professionals who

dedicate their lives to helping them change their behaviour."

Conference Manager Andrew Lewis introduced former prisoners Brian and Jim who spoke not just of the difficulties of life behind bars, but reflected on their crimes and the impact of a criminal record on their opportunities after release.

Andrew, from True Life, said: "We aim to show young people who want to work in related sectors such as the Law, policing, social work, psychology and prison welfare what the costs and realities of prison life are. What it is like to be labelled and then dealing with what can be a life-long stigma. We ask pupils to examine whether prison is really the best solution for some offences and whether the short sharp shock approach ever works. We also look at more serious offending, how those offenders think, and how we manage the segregation of dangerous individuals from society and the nature of punishment for wrong doing."



JCB Factory visit

The Business and Economics Department arranged an educational visit to the JCB factory for A Level students to learn about JCB's operations. This was a fantastic opportunity for students to experience production methods, quality management, stock control and global business first hand.



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 embarked 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.



South Africa Hockey & Netball Tour 2024

Challenge
ENRICHMENT



In July, 39 pupils and 6 members of staff travelled to South Africa for a two-week cultural sports tour. The itinerary was packed with excursions, fixtures and lots of memorable experiences. The South African people were extremely hospitable and welcoming which created an amazing atmosphere for our group. King's fielded two hockey and three netball teams, with lots of pupils competing in both sports against some strong opposition.

The tour party flew into a wet Cape Town, which unfortunately led to the first netball fixture against Paarl Gimnasium being cancelled. Torrential rain meant a lot of places flooded and schools were closed. The following day, those playing Netball had a pro-coaching session with club coaches from Stellenbosch while those only playing Hockey took part in a fun, competitive fitness session at a nearby Marriot Hotel.

In the afternoon, we had a fixture arranged for us at Stellenbosch University on the indoor courts against Queens College London. The opposition challenged the teams and put on a good display of netball, however King's came out top and winning both games.

The following day's wet weather led to the cancellation of our zip wiring activity so a trip to Ninja Warrior was organised instead. The afternoon consisted of shopping on the V & A waterfront, where the pupils enjoyed displays of South African dancing and buying souvenirs for home.

We then travelled to play hockey against Groot Schuur High School for the first hockey match of the tour and a good one to dust off the cobwebs. King's played some fantastic passing hockey and dominated in both games, coming out on top and being victorious.

After the match we were hosted by the teams and their coaches

in the pavilion. Here the pupils mixed with their opponents, fully experiencing the South African way of life. We enjoyed post-match presentations and the exchange of gifts and met some amazing people, very hospitable and appreciative that we had travelled and given them the opportunity to play.

After the fixture the afternoon excursion was travelling to The Cape of Good Hope, the most South Western point of Africa.

On the 6th day of the tour and still in Cape Town the group travelled up Table Mountain. Due to poor weather, the views were affected but the group spent some time up here before we travelled back down to the waterfront for another bout of shopping/exploring.

The 7th day of tour met us with some sunshine and the group took the bus to Hout Bay. The pupils enjoyed a boat trip to Seal Island before travelling to the

Cape Peninsula in Simon's Town to Boulders Beach to visit the African Penguins. We then drove to play the next fixture (netball) against Fish Hoek. On arrival, we were greeted by the staff who were extremely friendly and welcoming. The pupils enjoyed some competitive games against strong sides. We then travelled around the corner to the primary school to play Hockey in a lovely set up. King's played some outstanding hockey here and won both the U15/16 games. The venue was fantastic and the staff/pupils that we met were inspiring and so grateful to be able to play against us and enjoy the experience.

After an early rise, the group caught an internal flight to Johannesburg. Our next netball fixture was against Wonderboom: another fantastic venue and what a welcome we received. The opposition prayed before the game and provided the pupils with an amazing experience, showing

such appreciation to be able to play and in good spirit.

A trip to Lesedi allowed the group to visit five traditional homesteads, listening to stories about cultures and daily life rituals. We had the opportunity to take part in some traditional drumming and view/be involved in a number of South African tribal dances. Some of the pupils threw themselves in and joined in the fun.

The following morning was a tour around Soweto, visiting a local township, FNB stadium and Regina Mundhi Church. This was a great opportunity to learn more about how some South African people live and appreciating the differences between cultures. In the afternoon we travelled to our final hockey and netball fixtures of

the tour against Roedean School, set in the most beautiful grounds, with welcoming staff and pupils. These were the toughest hockey games of the tour and both teams narrowly missed out on wins, but put out some great performances.

The touring party made the three-hour journey to Mabula to spend two nights enjoying four game drives searching for the 'big 5', an evening brie in the outback, some relaxation by the pool and some well earned down time. What a fantastic way to end such an incredible tour!

The South Africa Tour was a remarkable experience; the girls made lasting memories, performed exceptionally well in fixtures, met a rich diversity of people and cultures, and learned a huge amount about the country and its culture.

SAH

Community ACTIVITIES

We have continued to make great strides this year with one of our strategic priorities: to be at the centre of our community. We continue to offer our campus and facilities to a wide range of community groups, to support an array of charities and to encourage our pupils to contribute to society.



Outreach Programme

Our Community Outreach programme seeks to widen access to the School's facilities for local organisations, sports clubs, charities and societies. Our facilities are provided either free of charge or at heavily subsidised rates. A total of 60 organisations use our facilities for either a single event or a series of lettings, including Cheshire Search & Rescue, Cheshire Cricket, England Netball, a range of local sports clubs, local schools and charities. Throughout the year, The Samaritans use the School premises as a training venue and for their recruitment event. The School's Sports Centre is used fortnightly, throughout the year, as an activity and meeting space for Disability Positive.



Our new campus has provided many opportunities to host events this year. We have hosted a variety of sports tournaments, including netball and cricket competitions, promoting inter-school competition and physical activity. We hosted the annual Bollington Primary Schools Swimming Festival again this year, involving 10 local primary schools. In April and August 2024, the Sports Centre hosted two events on behalf of AP Race Clinics. These were open to the wider community and provided elite coaching in swimming (paid

events). The school also hosted a charity netball tournament organised by AstraZeneca, providing facilities free of charge to support fundraising for The Teenage Cancer Trust

Bushcraft Workshops

King's specialist staff have provided sessions for local schools, focussed on developing skills in shelter building, fire lighting and bushcraft. Many local schools have very limited outdoor space, resources and budget for outdoor learning.



The sessions are tailored to the age of the pupils attending, which range from Year 3 – Year 9, and are designed as a fun way to get children engaged in outdoor activities, building confidence through teamwork and co-operation.

Cricket & Swimming Workshops

Cricket Sessions have been delivered to pupils from local schools including Broken Cross Primary, Parkroyal and Puss Bank School. Sessions were delivered by our cricket coaches and used our indoor cricket centre. Swimming sessions have also been popular during the summer term and holiday period. This year, around 60 children attended over 13 swim sessions.

Sports Leaders

This year, 26 Sixth Form pupils participated in the Community Sports Leaders Award Scheme, acting as coaches for local schools who visit King's. The Award allows Sixth Form students to develop important leadership and life skills such as effective communication, organisation, teamworking whilst learning to run activities for younger people.

Science Workshops for Primary Schools

Each year, we provide science workshops for local primary schools, run by our science teachers and A-Level students. In total, around 960 local primary school children experienced workshops delivered by King's A-Level science students.



Local & Regional Sports Clubs

The school maintains a community use agreement with Cheshire Cricket Board, Macclesfield Cricket Club, Alderley Edge and Macclesfield Hockey Clubs, Macclesfield Trampoline Club, and other local sports organisations. Activities from Wheelchair Basketball to Pilates and Yoga are all accommodated at the school.





Northern Chamber Orchestra

The Northern Chamber Orchestra (NCO) has continued to hold its regular performances at King's. As the North West's longest-standing chamber orchestra, we are delighted to boast the NCO as our 'orchestra in residence' and are thrilled that they have confirmed that we will continue to be their home for the coming year. Their Saturday night concerts regularly attract sell-out audiences of around 300 -400 people, many of whom were first time attendees at an NCO concert.

Leadership Conference

In the Autumn term, we hosted a Leadership Conference for Sixth Form pupils at schools across the North West. In 2023, this fantastic training day was attended by around 50 pupils who heard from a number of inspirational speakers including talking about Character & Leadership, Mr Slack presenting on Conflict Management, School Governor Andy Higginson presenting on Leadership theory and practice, and our own School Captains talking about their experience. Feedback from attendees was incredibly positive.



Primary Schools Maths Challenge

In June, we ran the Macclesfield Primary Schools Maths Challenge and hosted 10 competing Primary Schools who provided teams of Year 5 pupils.

A lot of fun was had with pupils from Alderley Edge, Bollington St Johns, Broken Cross, Marlborough, Rainow, St John the Evangelist, Mobberley and Upton Priory. Three lucky teams left with 1st, (St John the Evangelist), 2nd (Upton Priory) and 3rd (Marlborough) place prizes.

Disability Positive

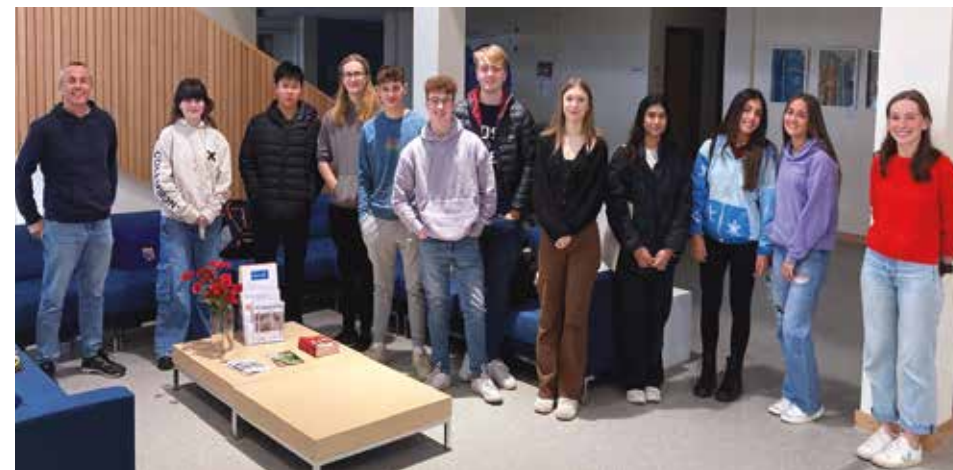
Every two weeks, Disability Positive have used our Sports Centre for their events. Disability Positive provides services for people with disabilities and long-term health conditions.

Local Drama Hub

The Jackson Hall hosted end-of-year shows for three local primary schools: Mottram School, Whirley School and Prestbury School, providing them with a spacious venue for their performances. In addition, the Cygnets drama group utilised the Jackson Hall for their end-of-year performance over three evenings, benefiting from the school's excellent facilities.

Adoption Day with CORAM

In a new initiative, the school hosted an Adoption Day in May in partnership with CORAM. The event facilitated meetings between potential adopting parents and children. The school offers a relaxed, informal atmosphere, and there are more events planned for later this



year. Plans are in the making to continue this partnership next academic year.

Aspiring Medics

One of our School Governors, Prof Neil Hanley, Professor of Medicine at the University of Birmingham, delivered Saturday morning workshops at King's to aspiring medical students at King's as well as local schools Tytherington and Fallibroome Academy.

The sessions are designed to prepare Sixth Form students for the challenging UCAS process, online tests, and university interviews.

Rugby World Cup Debrief

In the Autumn term, and following on from the Rugby World Cup, we hosted a community event with four England Rugby players. The sell-out event attracted people from the wider Macclesfield community, as well as a good number of our own pupils and parents. The event raised money for a number of rugby-related charities.

Friends of King's

The Friends of King's Committee has operated a number of events this year, including a Junior disco, an Easter Egg Hunt, a book fair, Year 7 Movie Night, several second-hand uniform sales and a Parent Ball. The Ball raised more than £20,000, with funds

allocated to a range of charities including The Rossendale Trust and Reuben's Retreat.

Funding requests from staff have been fulfilled to the value of £19,529, including equipment for King's Compass activities, various clubs, the Fashion Show, sensory room, uplighters for shows, trackers for DofE expeditions and an EYFS mud kitchen. Huge thanks to all committee members and volunteers who make all of the events possible.





Rossendale Trust Work Placement

Strengthening ties with The Rossendale Trust, the school had its first 'Work Taste' placement for an adult with learning needs, supported by a helper. He has been working in the main school kitchen throughout the academic year, helping our catering team and building skills. Plans are underway to welcome a second resident next academic year.



Macclesfield Scouts and Guides

The school's outdoor learning areas are used by various Macclesfield Scouts, Cubs, Guides, and Brownie groups during summer evenings, encouraging outdoor learning and engagement.

The David Lewis Centre

The David Lewis Centre supports individuals with learning disabilities, epilepsy, and autism. Throughout the year, a group of young adults from the centre have been coming to King's,



where they are supported by the school's staff in various work opportunities around the school grounds.

Duke of Edinburgh Programme

The School has a large cohort of 300 pupils engaged in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, representing around 1,000 hours of volunteering. Through the programme, students participate in various activities such as environmental projects, charity work, and mentoring younger students, directly benefiting local organisations and individuals

while also providing students with opportunities to grow and give back to their community.

CBBC TV Production

For eight weeks over the summer holidays, Channel X hired our school buildings and grounds for the filming of a long-running CBBC TV series.

Many of our Senior pupils were able to get acting experience on set as 'extras', whilst our GCSE drama students also benefitted from a talk about careers in the TV industry from the Producer of the show.



Sustainability

Over the summer of 2023, King's invested £200,000 in solar panels on the roof of the Sports Centre and 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 cafe. 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.

Over the summer of 2024, to build on the previous success, King's installed additional solar panels on the main School building. This 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.

Charity Events

The school raised a remarkable £45,000 for various charities, highlighting the generosity and involvement of the school community. More than 20 charities benefitted from a range of student-led fundraising activities which involved all pupils, from Pre-School to Sixth Form, and many staff and parents.



Community Art Exhibition

In November, a number of students, alumni and staff exhibited their art works, crafts and creations in the offices of Anthony Collins Solicitors (Jobling Gowler). From the sale of artworks a total of over £740 was raised for two local charities, Visyon and East Cheshire Eye Society.





Macmillan Coffee Morning

Huge thanks to everyone involved in our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning, which took place in the Autumn 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 Capesthorne House raising the most on their cake stall.

Santa Dash

The popular Santa Dash initiative engaged students from the Juniors to Year 8, raising over £5,000 for East Cheshire Hospice.

BBC Children in Need Day

A visit from Pudsey Bear marked another successful BBC Children in Need Day at the school, at



which £6,678 was raised. This event remains a highlight in the school calendar, encouraging students and staff to get involved in making a difference.

Triple Charity Day and World Water Day

The Infant & Junior and Senior Divisions collaborated to hold a Triple Charity Day in March. Activities included a Junior School water carry for Project Waterfall on World Water Day, a 24-hour swimathon to raise funds for Shelter, and a 'sleep out' by students from Years 10 and above to raise additional funds for Shelter. The series of events raised nearly £2,000 for Shelter and £1,500 for Water Aid

Christmas Jumper Day

A festive Christmas Jumper Day helped raise funds for Francis



House, another charitable cause embraced by the school community. In total, we raised £2,172 for Francis House.

Press-Up challenge

In November, a group of King's staff took on a 'Press-up Challenge' in aid of Cancer Research UK. They each completed 100 press-ups per day, starting in the school's main entrance hall at 8.30am as pupils arrived, raising £1,200. Deputy Head, Mr Griffiths, said: "Our charitable work is a key part school life and, as staff, we really wanted to set the example."

November

In November, a group of staff joined the 'Movember' fundraising movement to support a range of men's health charities including



prostate cancer, testicular cancer and men's mental health and suicide. Individually, via their fundraising pages, they raised a considerable sum for these important causes.

Sixth Form Fashion Show

The Sixth Form Fashion Show was a major success, raising nearly £20,000 for The Christie. The event, which was organised and led by Sixth Formers, showcased the school's creativity and dedication to supporting important causes.



King's SPORT

Sport
HIGHLIGHTS

Team and individual sports continue to flourish at King's. As well as being ranked in the top 25 schools in the UK for the breadth and quality of sporting provision, we have pupils who are national champions in several different sports.

INFANT & JUNIOR SPORT

The Infant & Junior Division has enjoyed an exceptional year of sports, with children participating in an impressive total of 51 whole-year group fixtures. This level of engagement and enthusiasm has paved the way for numerous successes across various sports, marking one of our most successful and inclusive seasons to date.

Our hockey teams had an outstanding season, with both the boys and girls securing victories in the AJIS and IN2 Tournaments. Their dedication and teamwork were evident throughout the competitions, culminating in these significant achievements and showcasing our commitment to excellence.

In the pool, our swimmers were undefeated throughout the season. Their remarkable performance earned them spots in the Swimming English Schools finals for both boys' and girls' relays. This accomplishment highlights the exceptional talent and hard work of our swim teams.

Additionally, we hosted the AJIS Swimming Gala for 18 schools, which was a huge success. This year saw the introduction of the Year 6 Biathlon, adding a new and



exciting dimension to our sports programme. The House Gala was another highlight, with every child in the Juniors taking part. The event fostered a sense of community and healthy competition among the children, making it a memorable occasion for all involved and emphasising our inclusive approach to sports.

The U10 Boys football team triumphed, winning two tournaments at Manchester United against 16 other schools from the Greater Manchester area. Our U11 Girls Football team also emerged as winners in their category in their Manchester United tournament, which was a fantastic achievement. These victories are a testament to the skill and determination of our

young footballers. The U11 Boys were crowned champions in the Cricket 6s tournament, while the U11 AJIS Girls achieved a historic first for King's by winning their cricket competition. Our cricket teams, along with our rugby and rounders teams, remained undefeated throughout the season, reflecting our pursuit of excellence and dominance in these sports.

The introduction of the 'Path to Paris Programme' was a significant milestone, culminating in a highly successful sports day. In athletics, all relay teams medalled in the AJIS Event, and we celebrated further individual successes in the Local District events, showcasing our athletes' speed and agility.



Our netball teams were double winners in the Macclesfield and District League and Tournament. We also hosted the U10 and U11 AJIS Netball Tournaments for 20 schools, further demonstrating our commitment to fostering competitive sports for all.

The school cricket teams have recently enjoyed incredible success at the AJIS competitions. Both the boys' and girls' teams showcased outstanding skill, teamwork, and sportsmanship, bringing home trophies in their respective categories. These dual victories mark a significant

achievement for our school's cricket programme and highlight the dedication of the players and coaches. This is a first for King's, taking the lead in both categories, it has taken 7 years for the boys to retain the trophy once again and a first for the girls.

We congratulate the boys' and girls' cricket teams for their outstanding performances and look forward to more success in the future!

In summary, this year has been a banner year for the Division, marked by remarkable achievements across all sports. The commitment and spirit shown by our young athletes have set a high standard for the future, and we look forward to building on this success in the years to come, continuing our mission of achieving excellence and inclusive sports for all.

EJS

SENIOR SPORT

ATHLETICS



Although a short season, our athletes have nonetheless experienced many successes this year. At the start of the season at the Macclesfield and District Athletics Championships, the Junior Girls team (Years 7-8) and Inter Girls teams (Years 9-10) both finished in first place against the nine schools in Macclesfield District, with the Junior Boys and Inter Boys teams finishing 8th and 5th respectively.

Twelve of our athletes qualified to represent Macclesfield at the County Championships at Ellesmere Port in June, at which the following performed especially well: Ollie Ravenscroft, 2nd JB Discus – 25.44m, Rocky Maguire, 2nd JB Shot Putt – 10.45m, Frank Shanahan, 5th JB Shot Putt – 9.55m, Imogen Nugent, 3rd IG 100m – 14.5s, Stan Slater, 4th IB 400m – 59.6s and Matisse Densem, 7th JG Long Jump – 3.62m.

The highlight of the season must be Ollie and Rocky earning themselves Cheshire vests and going on to compete for Cheshire at the Mason Trophy Inter-Counties Track and Field competition in Stoke, against other counties in the Midlands. Ollie improved his discus throw slightly and achieved 7th place with 25.50m and Rocky threw 10.44m to finish 12th.



Later in the season, our teams competed in the first round of the ESAA Track & Field Schools Cup where the Junior and Inter Girls team finished in 3rd place, our Junior Boys team was 5th and the Inter boys were 4th. There were some superb individual performances with Xander Hunter, Bobby Tomlinson, Grace Taylor, Lalli Brown, Eva Sheppard and Daisy Whittington being our top scoring athletes.

Our Junior Girls' team went on to represent Cheshire in the North West B finals against the top 24 schools in the region. There were impressive performances: Connie O'Doherty won the High Jump, Lottie Winterton was 2nd and Eva Sheppard fourth in the 800m. Overall, the team finished in ninth position in this competition.

Our Year 7 pupils also experienced success in the District Schools Minors Championships both individually and as teams. The Minor Girls won the competition, and the Minor Boys were second. Ten of our athletes were selected to represent Macclesfield at the County Minors Championships. Benny Byrne demonstrated his potential in winning the 100m as



did Rose Saunders and Annabelle Brown in finishing second in the 100m and 200m respectively. These pupils have enormous athletic potential, and we look forward to seeing their progress and successful performances in the future.

We closed the athletics season with the Senior School sports day. This was a super day of athletic competition with many pupils having fun and competing for the House trophy. Congratulations to Adlington House on their victory.

LB



CRICKET



Boys' Cricket

U12 Boys

The U12As rounded off a fantastic unbeaten season with a comfortable 49 run victory over King's Chester in the Cheshire Cup Final. Important runs came from Gabe Adamson (49) and Lucas Worthy (19) to build on the platform laid by Tom Kenny (33) and Matthew McKee (16), whilst 3 wicket hauls from captain Freddie Howarth and Henry Unwin sealed the win and booked a place in the U13 2024 National Cup.

Captain Howarth had a fine all-round season, scoring 151 runs at an average of 21.57 and finishing as leading wicket taker with 13 wickets. Henry Unwin also showed real all-round potential with 157 runs (31.40 average) and 11 wickets, as did Tom Kenny who finished as 2nd top run scorer (202 runs) and bowled consistently well over the season.

Charlie Kennedy (161 runs at an average of 23) scored key runs at the top of the order, whilst Lucas Worthy, Lucas Marsh and Amelia Grace added valuable runs in the middle order. Freddie Nichols, Moosa Usman, Luca Levings, Teddy Forrester and James Mitchell all showed the potential to score runs, alongside Matthew McKee who earned his place later in the season. However, it was Gabe Adamson whose batting star shone brightest, as he amassed 552 runs at an average of 92 over a fantastic summer that included a wonderful unbeaten 102 at MGS. Adamson was also key in his wicket-keeping role as he claimed no fewer than 11



stumpings. Bowling-wise, Teddy Forrester produced some exciting leg-spin spells as he picked up 12 wickets, and Freddie Nichols' ability to move the ball at good pace earned him 9 good wickets. Moosa Usman bowled some very good balls and took 5 wickets, as did James Mitchell and Amelia Grace. Luca Levings and Chace Ingoe were two left-armers who showed real promise, whilst Tom Stockwood announced himself in the A team with an excellent spell against Bolton School. Other valuable contributions over the season came from Xander Hartley, Harry O'Reilly and Felix Ray.

CST

U12B Boys

The U12Bs had a strong season that featured some excellent victories, as well as some obvious skill development in all three elements of the game. The

victories came against Denstone College, Cheadle Hulme School and King's Chester, and the boys thoroughly enjoyed the matchday opportunities to challenge themselves against other schools. Cian Coulthurst was player of the match against Denstone, whilst Max Donaldson and Harry O'Reilly both scored useful runs in the defeat at MGS. Captain Chace Ingoe led from the front with runs in victory over Cheadle, along with Xander Hartley and Seb Tidman, while Matthew McKee and Tom Stockwood both claimed important wickets.

In a rain-affected match at Birkenhead, the boys looked to be on course for a further victory as Luca Levings and Chace Ingoe shared a superb unbroken opening partnership of over 50 off only 9 overs before the rain came.

The season finale at King's Chester saw a comfortable 4 wicket win, with two wickets apiece for Felix Ray,

Guy Blackwell and Max Donaldson, whilst Luca Levings and James Mitchell scored the key runs. Over the season, some 25 boys represented the team, which is indicative of the depth of interest and ability within the group. A number of those boys deservedly also enjoyed opportunities with the A team, including: Lucas March, Luca Levings, James Mitchell, Tom Stockwood, Matthew McKee, Chace Ingoe and Xander Hartley. Congratulations to James Mitchell for winning the batting award for the season, and to Chace Ingoe who collected the bowling award.

FS

U13 Boys

The U13A side had an excellent cricket season, losing only once on a Saturday morning, with the really talented squad performing strongly as a team as well as with plenty of individual highlights. The team started the defence of their

Cheshire Cup with a dominant win over Poynton High School. This was followed by a big win against Cheadle Hulme, with Tom Dyer (78) top scoring. Following their Cheshire Cup win last year, the side earned a place in the National Cup which involved a trip to Manchester Grammar in the first round. After a strong start in the field, they got a bit too far away from us in the final 10 overs of their innings. Ultimately, we fell short of their 171 to fall at the first hurdle in the National Cup.

Normal Saturday morning service resumed with big wins against Lancaster Grammar with spinner Elijah Gaddum picking up figures of 6/11, followed by a dominant Cheshire Cup win against Kingsway led by captain Oscar Howarth (51*). Oliver Hodgson (50*) top scored in a 100-run victory over Newcastle, with James Cresswell (4-19) leading the bowling attack. Next up was a rematch with Manchester

Grammar which was lost by a much narrower margin than the previous game, showing how much the side had improved, especially with the mentality when it came to their batting. Unfortunately, the Cheshire Cup defence was halted by Altrincham Grammar in a disappointing performance, with Oscar Howarth (38*) the only score of any note in a 10-wicket defeat. The season ended in very positive fashion with some really good performances with Elijah Gaddum picking up 4 wickets in a win against Bolton.

Oscar Howarth with 43* off just 20 balls set up the team for a big win against Wilmslow. They also played a 100-ball match at Sandbach with Will Birchenall scoring 36* in a match where the side adapted really well to the change in format. The final two fixtures were comfortable wins against Merchant Taylors' and King's Chester.

Congratulations to captain Oscar Howarth for winning the batter of the season award after scoring almost 300 runs at a superb rate, and Elijah Gaddum who won bowler of the season with a very impressive 19 wickets.

OC

U13B Boys

The U13B team had an outstanding season. A very talented squad showed remarkable talent, teamwork and sportsmanship.

The season began with high hopes and expectations, and the team did not disappoint. Throughout the season, King's U13B played a total of 8 matches, achieving an impressive record of 7 wins and only 1 loss. The team demonstrated an ability to overcome challenges and



consistently improve their performance. Through the season, they took 82 wickets and scored around 1,000 runs in these 8 innings. No fewer than 30 players represented the team over the season and all the players performed well on occasions.

The highest overall run scorer for the season was Reuben "don't bowl there at me son" Byrne who was always in the runs and with a few 'not outs' averaged 75 with a highest score of 50* and with a total of 150 runs for the season. Will Johnson's excellent 54* against Cheadle Hulme School was a batting highlight. Will also got the highest strike rate (207). Oscar Dabbs wasn't far behind with a brutal 44* off just 21 balls against Wilmslow with Oliver Healey a strong 31 in the same game.

Beau Wade had a great season bowling. Beau took two wickets against Sandbach school, which was crucial to a tight win. Ben Sykes, Harris Blake, Harry Jackson and Jack Hutchins all had three wicket hauls which is a great achievement when bowlers are often restricted to just a few overs.

Jack Hutchins played great at both ends of the crease, as he retired 3 times and took many wickets. Will Ledger and Evan Langman both bowled and

batted brilliantly both sharing the Vice-Captain position. The two had many great partnerships together and both stayed consistent throughout. Charlie Kay bowled fabulously - very economically without getting the wickets he deserved. Aaliyah Hammad had a player of the match performance against Stockport with 2 tight overs, 2 brilliant catches and a rapid 26*. Well done to all the players.

Reuben Byrne (Year 8)

U14 boys

The U14 squad was filled with talented young cricketers, delivering some impressive performances throughout the season. Led primarily by captain Lucas Burns, the team demonstrated both individual skill and a strong work ethic. When Lucas was unavailable, Freddie Knight ably stepped in as captain.

The season started with a competitive fixture against Cheadle Hulme School. King's posted a respectable 92/5, with notable contributions from Lucas Burns (30) and Fred Knight (18*). Despite a strong effort, King's were unable to defend the total, but the bowlers all performed well, with wickets to Oscar Wheeldon, Toby Boyd, Harry Boddy (3), and George Davis.

The team had a strong win over LRGS. The opposition posted 123/7, with impressive bowling performances from Hayden Oliver (3 wickets), Theo Frangos, George Davis and Dylan Hodgson (2 wickets). The team chased successfully, thanks to a standout innings from Hayden Oliver, who smashed 48 off just 23 balls, well supported by Toby Boyd with 21.

King's followed this up with another win against Newcastle-under-Lyme School. Posting 99/9, largely due to Dylan Hodgson's 43, the team held Newcastle to 74/9 in 25 overs. Key wicket-takers included Oscar Wheeldon, Theo Frangos, Lucas Burns, Fred Slater and Harry Boddy. Harry Serafi did some excellent work behind the stumps.

A 44-run cup victory over Sandbach further demonstrated the team's all-round ability. King's set a target of 137/6, with Theo Frangos (50*) and Toby Boyd (23) contributing significantly. Sandbach were bowled out for 93, with the wickets spread across the team - Dylan Hodgson (2), Toby Boyd (2), Lucas Burns, George Davis, Fred Slater, Charles Burns, and George Hamilton (2).

In a close encounter with Manchester Grammar School, King's posted 117/8, thanks in large part to Dylan Hodgson's outstanding 56. Although MGS secured a seven-wicket win, the fielding efforts from George Hamilton and Dylan, both contributing to key run-outs, were commendable.

The team enjoyed another victory, this time over Stockport Grammar School, with wickets falling to Toby Boyd (2), Hayden Oliver (2), Lucas Burns, and Harry Boddy.





A run-out by Freddie Knight added to the pressure, and the chase was expertly handled by Oscar Howarth, an U13 player, who top-scored with 56*, supported by Freddie Knight's 23.

Despite a loss to Altrincham Grammar School, the squad finished the season on a high with wins over Merchant Taylors' and King's Chester. Standout performances across these fixtures included: 49 from Mr Reliable Dylan Hodgson, Fred Knight (29 and 24), Harry Boddy (49 and 19), Oscar Wheeldon (3 and 2 wickets) and Fred Slater (4 wickets).

Overall, it was a very positive season for the U14 squad, a group with a huge amount of potential.

PH

U15 boys

The 2024 cricket season promised much for the talented U15 team, and while there were many positives, there was a slight tinge of disappointment as the team played their final season as an age group side. Throughout the Saturday season, the team was consistently short of at least four players on 1st XI duty; on the two

Duke of Edinburgh weekends, it was almost a completely changed side! Despite these challenges, the team was brilliantly led by Alex Cresswell, with Will Bennett stepping in as skipper when required.

Rain affected the games against Birkenhead and Denstone. However, there was a good win against Lancaster with Will Bennett hitting an excellent 57, and a 10-wicket win against Cheadle, with Alex Cresswell scoring a rapid 51* before retiring to watch Alfie Usher and Leo Burns knock off the runs. Will Hayes hit an excellent 41 against Newcastle-under-Lyme after Alex Cresswell's 6 for 6 bowled the opposition out. Two very close defeats came in the games when King's were short of their Duke of Edinburgh players. There was a narrow loss against a strong Manchester Grammar School and a disappointing performance against Merchant Taylors'.

A total of 35 players represented the team over the course of the summer, all of whom batted at least once, and a remarkable 29 different players bowled! This was partly due to the comings and goings in the team, but also

Alex's willingness to get players involved. All the players played their part in the season. Alex himself finished as the leading wicket-taker with a remarkable 10 wickets from just 15 overs, with Jack Saunders and Leo Burns just behind him with 8 wickets each. Adi Nair and Alfie Usher with 7 each just behind them. Alex Fahy also had a good season with the ball without always getting the wickets he deserved. Jack Saunders with 3 for 8 sealed a strong cup win against Altrincham after the school posted 192 in a 20 over game without any players scoring more than 40, showing the strength in depth of the squad. Joe Moores topped the run-scorers with 259 runs from just 4 innings, highlighted by his remarkable 110* in just 13 overs in the Cheshire Cup Final. Joe and Liam Yahathugoda chased down Chester's excellent 168 in double quick time without losing a single wicket. The victory marked the fourth successive Cheshire Cup title for the team; they have never lost a Cheshire Cup game during their time at King's!

Having won a National title as U13s, the group knew they had the potential to repeat that achievement. Winning the Cheshire Cup as U14s once again put them in the 40-over National Competition: after a bye in the first round, the school travelled to Scarborough for a last 16 match. King's posted an impressive 248 in the first innings, with 97 from Joe Moores and support from Liam Yahathugoda (56). Scarborough started the chase well, but a collapse saw them reduced to 194 for nine, needing almost 60 runs for victory and seemingly out of the game. Remarkably, their number 11 batsman came out swinging, rode his luck, and saw his side home. It was a blow for



the team that had dominated 95% of the game; Scarborough would go on to lift the National title at the end of the season without playing another close game.

Having won the Cheshire Cup, King's qualified for the North finals day, where they again faced Scarborough. This time, Scarborough batted first and posted 200 runs. Despite a valiant effort and missing key players, King's fell short in the chase. As this side moves into Year 11, it will be exciting to watch these players as they grow and progress.

SM

1st XI Cricket

The 1st XI had a strong start to the season despite challenging weather and some postponements. King's showcased their depth with players stepping up from the 2nd XI and younger age groups. Early successes included Joe Moores scoring 58 against Clitheroe in the National T20, followed by a powerful 86 off 43 balls in round two against Cheadle Hulme. Liam Yahathugoda's quick 46 off 27

also set up a total of 207, which proved too much for Cheadle, as Callum Richardson's 4-wicket spell secured a 41-run victory.

In Round 3, a strong Lancaster RGS proved a tougher opponent, surpassing King's 20-over score of 119 in 18 overs with only 4 wickets down. Harry Boyd the standout performer with 2 wickets.

After the T20 cup concluded, the focus shifted to Saturday matches. Wins against Manchester Grammar School, where Lewis Wheeldon's 4-7 restricted them to 87, and Bolton School, with Alfie Usher and Liam Yahathugoda scoring 58 and 76, ensured an unbeaten Saturday season.

The squad's major strength is their batting depth with experienced performers dotted throughout the team. Versatility is a big bonus in any line-up and with players that can score quickly complemented by players who are skilled in rotation, it's a line-up that has the makings of one that can compete at the top table in years to come.

A special mention must go to Christian Smith, who captained

the team with distinction throughout the season. Despite being one of the younger players in the squad, his leadership was excellent, setting a fine example for his teammates both on and off the field. Our bowling attack also boasts players of all skill sets. The spin unit is particularly strong with Liam Yahathugoda and Alfie Usher leading the way. Our quicks were less experienced but Lewis Wheeldon, Ollie Jennings and Leo Burns all performed well with the new ball.

The team's standout performance came against Newcastle, featuring Joe Moores' 158 off 104 balls and James Hartley's career-best 7 for 31. It was a proud display against strong opposition, marking another winning Saturday.

Defeats were rare, but the MCC and Old Boys both proved too strong for the school team that was missing key players. Lewis Wheeldon's blistering 72 against the Old Boys stood out, while Will Hawley and Harry Boyd contributed with wickets. The season concluded at a Rossall School festival, marking the final matches for Ollie Jennings, Freddie Griffiths, and Archie Offer, who made significant contributions throughout their King's careers.

The Edinburgh fixture was lost to the rain with King's well on top but defeats to Barnard Castle and Rossall was a disappointing way to end the season with the school again paying the penalty of having key players playing representative cricket at the end of the school season. It is a good problem to have!



Girls' Cricket



U12 Girls

The Year 7 girls made a very enthusiastic start to their cricketing journey at King's, with a great attendance at weekly training sessions and additional nets practice. A total of 20 girls represented the school in the 8 fixtures with 7 wins including victory at the Birkenhead Tournament, with comprehensive performances against Birkenhead, King's Chester and Stockport. Special mention to Flo Ayre who top scored with 27 runs across the day and Amelia Grace who was awarded Players' Player for one of the matches.

The majority of the girls' fixtures were played as 'pairs cricket', so all eight players had to both bat and bowl. This ensured that all girls were able to showcase their talents, and gain invaluable practice at both disciplines. Flo Ayre kept wicket for the majority of fixtures and showed some great athleticism behind the stumps.

A number of different captains were selected to give the girls an opportunity to practise their leadership skills, but special mention goes to Emelia Bexon who led by example when playing and encouraged all players to perform to their best. For this she was given the Coaches' Player. Grace Conibere was awarded most improved player; a standout moment was her wicket hat trick against AESG! The highest score in one fixture went to Orla Nash with a swashbuckling 23 against King's



Chester. Special recognition goes to Amelia Grace who during the season played both for the boys' teams and also for the U14 girls. One to definitely watch for her future here at King's.

U13 Girls

The U13 team had a wealth of matches throughout the summer, with a mix of hard and softball. Many of the girls were keen to keep training during the winter period to maintain good standards.

The girls started off the season at home with a comfortable win against Lindow CC, taking a win by 40 runs. Unfortunately, the next two matches were more challenging; the girls bowled well and batted with some vigour, but just couldn't find the necessary runs to win, losing against CHS and NULS. However, the following 3 matches were more successful and saw 3 victories, against The Grange, another match against CHS and Wilmslow High School.

The girls also entered into the County Cup and, because of teams pulling out, advanced quickly to the final and again played CHS for the third time



in the season. The format for the match was 20/20, we won the toss and decided to field. Although it was a close match and we didn't take the victory, there were some highlights to mention: during the fielding, Ruby Barton-Firbank took 2 splendid catches, the team bowled Cheadle all out before the 20 overs were bowled. In the batting innings, an outstanding performance from Amelia Grace, she stayed in for the entire innings facing 58 ball and scoring a brilliant 69 N/O. She was awarded Player of the Match from both the opposition and the umpires and received the match ball. Final score was CHS 153 a/o Vs 129 for 7 wickets.

Other highlights from the season, Lucy Worthington with 4 wickets from 2 overs against WHS. Aaliyah Hammad with 20 runs against WHS and the only 6 of the match and 3 wickets from 2 overs. Lucy Worthington 27 runs from 23 balls against CHS, she was asked to retire her innings. Esme Balson 12 not out. Several girls also took 2 wickets in the match, Anisha Kumar, Isla Machin and Jess Fahy.

Overall, a positive year of girls' cricket for the U13 team, they have been a delight to coach and have developed their cricket knowledge, skills and game awareness and worked hard throughout the season with lots of success.

M Stephens



U14 girls

The U14 girls had a great season, really coming together as a team and putting in the hard work with Mr Harris in the indoor nets in the Spring and plenty of practice throughout the Summer term. It was encouraging to see such a committed group. It was always tricky getting fixtures for the U14s, with most schools only running U13 and U15 teams, but the girls made the most of the games they had. They faced some tough opposition, including against a strong Lindow side (which also included a few of the King's girls). A good win against Cheadle Hulme, after an early defeat against Newcastle-Under-Lyme, was a real highlight.

The season finished with an encouraging performance against a strong and experienced Denstone team. Although the visitors went back to Staffordshire with a comfortable victory, there were a number of positives for the King's girls. Claudia Williams demonstrated an excellent bowling action and good consistency, whilst sister Beth scored a fantastic 26 not out before retiring, and Hattie Usher captained the team well. The two Williams sisters, Hattie Usher and Annabel Wong were key players throughout the season and, in

total, 19 girls got the chance to represent the team.

There's a lot to look forward to next year as the team steps up to U15s, with more fixtures planned and a chance to compete in the Cheshire Cup. It's a talented group that is only going to get stronger.

U15 Girls

The 2024 season saw a full fixtures programme with a range of hardball formats. Mr Harris worked very hard over the winter, helping to develop the core squad in batting and bowling to progress from the momentum gathered last season. It has been a pleasure to see the players progress technically and also tactically.

The first games saw a pairs format played which allowed all players to bowl and bat, highlights include Alex Cooper who got 2-16 and Imogen Nugent who made a run a ball 13 against Lindow CC. Against Cheadle Hulme School we fought back against a good start to restrict them and close out a win, highlights include Mia Lamb who got 4-23 and Alex Cooper 3-0.

During the season we played in two cup competitions which offered players a shorter and

fuller length of game. We were beaten by NULS in the National Cup competition by a very strong opening pair who play county cricket, however, on reflection we were a far better all-round team with real strength in depth.

This is testament to the players hard work over the previous two seasons. In the county cup we progressed easily with a resounding win against Wilmslow High School. Megan Wood bowled with good pace and secured 2-5 off 2 overs. Anya Clayton (24 not out) shared an opening partnership of over 50 with Olivia Kitchin which won us the game.

The semi-final of the Cup competition saw us play against Cheadle High School, but in a full 20 over game this time. It was a very close game with some excellent running between the wickets to keep the scoring rate ticking along. Bowling highlights include Megan Wood with 2-25 and Imogen Nugent with 2-23. All batters contributed to the run chase, but we fell 7 runs short.

I would like to thank all the players, coaches and parents for their support over my time at King's. It has been a pleasure to be part of the rising success and development of girls' cricket at King's.

JLD

CROSS COUNTRY



The senior cross-country runners had another busy season, with no shortage of success.

At the first event of the year, the ESAA Cross Country Cup in Warrington, all runners enjoyed the flat but muddy course, and ran well, to secure the teams places in the Regional Finals at Bromsgrove School in November.

Our Minor Girls Team and Junior Boys team both finished in 1st place, with the Minor Boys and Inter Boys in 3rd place at the Macclesfield & District Cross-Country Championships, against 9 other schools in Macclesfield. The following pupils were selected to represent Macclesfield at the County Cross Country Championships in February: Minor Girls – Emilia Bexon, Lucy Gass, Lilly Hardcastle and Grace Johnson; Junior Girls – Aaliyah Hammad and Daisy Whittington; Minor Boys – Josh Jepson and Toby Cooper; Junior Boys – Bobby Tomlinson, Dylan Hodgson, Aidan Wagg, Oliver Hodgson and Harry Irving; Inter Boys – Ross Hallinan, Hugo Blackwell, Stan Slater and Jamie McCabe.

At the ESAA Regional Cross-Country Cup Final at Bromsgrove School, our Junior Girls and Junior and Inter Boys teams represented Cheshire against some very strong running schools in the West Midlands region. There were some good individual and team performances with the Junior Boys finishing 10th and the Junior Girls 14th. Our Inter Boys had brilliant runs and the team secured 3rd place, narrowly missing out on selection for the National Cup Finals.



Cross-Country continued in the Spring term with the County Championships in February, where 12 pupils represented the Macclesfield team. In the Minor girls' race, Lucy Gass finished 52nd, Emilia Bexon 53rd and Grace Johnson 54th. Toby Cooper and Josh Jepson ran in the Minor Boys race and earned themselves a place on the Cheshire team by finishing 14th and 17th respectively. In the Junior races (Years 8 - 9), Aaliyah Hammad and Daisy Whittington gained 20th and 36th place, whilst Bobby Tomlinson had a brilliant run finishing 7th.

In the Inter Boys race, Jamie McCabe also gained 7th place, whilst Ross Hallinan, Hugo Blackwell and Stan Slater were 19th, 35th and 37th respectively. Both Bobby Tomlinson and Jamie McCabe earned their Cheshire vests and a place to compete in the ESAA National Schools Cross-Country Finals in Pontefract against the top runners in the country. Bobby went on to finish in



a creditable 270th place in a field of 343 runners, and Jamie was 277th out of 329. Later in the term, Toby Cooper and Josh Jepson represented Cheshire in an inter-counties cross country race against Merseyside, where they finished in 16th and 20th place respectively.

Congratulations to the following runners who were awarded Runner of the Year at the Sports Presentation evening: U12 – Lucy Gass and Toby Cooper, U13 – Aaliyah Hammad and Oliver Hodgson, U14 – Daisy Whittington and Bobby Tomlinson and U15 – Ross Hallinan.

Thank you to Mr Williams and Mr Browne for their support. We look forward to the continued success of our runners as they progress through the school.

LB



EQUESTRIAN



This year has been marked by highly impressive performances, unwavering dedication and significant accomplishments for the King's School Equestrian Squad.

The team qualified for both the Autumn National Championship at Addington Equestrian Centre and the Spring National Championship at the prestigious All England Jumping Course at Hickstead. The team consistently performed at a high level in highly competitive fields, showcasing their skill and dedication.

At the Autumn National Championships in October, the Friday saw the team secure 6th place out of 25 in the Arena Eventing 80cm class, a notable achievement against strong competition. The team included Rubi Ambrey Brosnahan, Libby James, Antonia Heptinstall and Emily Carter.

On Saturday, the King's School placed 4th out of 15 in the Regional Plate League, with team members jumping heights from 70 to 100cm. All riders,

including Lacey Barton-Firbank, Ruby Barton-Firbank, Libby James, Emily Carter, Rubi Ambrey Brosnahan, Oliver Ravenscroft, Poppy Holding and Freddie James, contributed to this success.

On Sunday, the squad excelled again, coming in 3rd out of 11 teams in the Arena Eventing Class, with Poppy Holding, Rubi Ambrey Brosnahan, Freddie James, and Oliver Ravenscroft making up the team. Additionally, the Dressage Team achieved 2nd place out of 18 teams, with outstanding performances by Libby James, Oliver Ravenscroft, Poppy Holding, and Freddie James.

At the Spring National Championship Competition in May, the squad qualified for 11 Championship classes at the All England Jumping Course Hickstead, which is a remarkable feat. In Dressage, the team won the Prelim 12 Dressage team final, thanks to the efforts of Emily Carter, Oliver Ravenscroft, Libby James and Rubi Ambrey Brosnahan. They also secured 7th place in the Open Dressage Team competition, with a special commendation to Poppy Holding for her 3rd place in the Novice Individual Final.



In Arena Eventing, highlights included Libby James placing 8th out of 99 in the 70-75cm Class, and the team achieving 7th place in the 90-95cm Class.

In Show Jumping, the squad shone brightly with a 2nd place finish in the 70-75cm Class, and Poppy Holding's top individual ranking in the 100-105cm Class.

This season has been a testament to the squad's hard work, skill and dedication. As we look forward to the 2024/25 season, we remain confident in their continued success and are grateful for their enthusiasm and commitment. Well done to all our riders and support crew, thank you for making this year a remarkable one!

GOLF



We continue to take pupils over for lessons with PGA professional Mark Pilling at Prestbury Golf Club on a Wednesday and Thursday after school. Fixtures throughout the year were played at Sandiway Golf Club, but sadly we did not progress in either the ISGA matchplay or the HMC foursomes.

Congratulations to Emilia Gravett (Nett even) and Anya Clayton (Nett +1) who took 2nd and 3rd place respectively in the girls' section at the Cheshire Schools Golf Championship. Well done to Tom Kennedy who took on challenging fields in competitions in the USA.

Toby Cooper also headed across the Atlantic having qualified to play in the IMGA World Junior Championships in San Diego in July. It is the largest international event in the world for junior golfers and is unique for its international representation and cultural-diversity, and has been previously won by players such as Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson. Thomas Nugent has also been part of the Cheshire boys set up, whilst Toby, Thomas, Emilia and Anya all represented the School in a Cheshire Schools Competition at Wilmslow in May.

GSR

HOCKEY



Boys' Hockey

1st XI

The 2023/24 season was one of mixed fortunes for the Boys' 1st XI. It started off in blistering fashion, winning their opening four matches, scoring over 20 goals in the process. A very promising start from a team containing a large proportion of U16s playing their first few games for the 1st XI.

The young squad was taught a few lessons over the next few weeks, with losses against King's Chester (4-1) and Altrincham (7-2). Heading towards Christmas, the weather got the better of us on several occasions. With several National Cup games postponed, only one further game was played against Sandbach, which they narrowly lost 3-1.

The 1st XI also competed strongly in the North West Indoor Finals. It was a tough day for the squad, playing against some very experienced indoor teams. The squad narrowly missed out on a place in the semi-finals on goal difference in the group stage, finishing 5th overall.

Post-Christmas, games came thick and fast, trying to catch up on cup games whilst maintaining the regular Wednesday block fixtures. In the National Cup, the team played superbly beating Manchester Grammar 5-0, scoring early and then controlling the game for the entirety in a very mature and professional display. Following this came a very different type of performance against a very strong Trent College side. An incredibly tense game, in which

they found themselves 3-0 up at half time. The squad displayed levels of desire and determination way above anything they had showed all season during that first half, limiting the chances a talented Trent side could create, whilst also showing plenty of composure and skill in front of goal to take the chances we created. The second half was cagey, but the boys managed to hold on to win the game 3-2.

Following this, a game against the familiar Altrincham Grammar, looking to avenge a heavy defeat earlier in the season, started in a similar manner to the previous round, with King's doing plenty of defending but scoring a great goal on the break courtesy of Zac Farrer. Unfortunately, Altrincham ground us down and despite the hard work shown by the team we ultimately lost 4-2. However, the result and performance displayed on the day really demonstrated the vast steps the team has taken throughout the year.

In the Independent Schools Competition, the 1st XI begun in disappointing fashion with a 3-2 loss against Calday Grange. After the loss, the 1st XI dropped down into the plate competition where the first trip was to Leeds Grammar. The team won 8-1 in a dominant performance to set up a clash with Rossall in the next round. The team again displayed their toughness with a 3-2 victory against Rossall after twice being a goal down in the game.

This set up a big trip to Scarborough College in the quarter finals. The squad went toe to toe with a very strong Scarborough side in a high-quality physical game. The game went back and forth with the boys showing plenty of fight and were desperately unlucky to come away with a 4-3 defeat.



A season of plenty of highs, and some very nearly moments and a core group of U16s to build with over the next few years. A special mention goes to the departing Year 13s who have all led by example throughout the season, representing the School in a terrific way and being great role models for the younger students.

2nd XI Boys

On the face of it, a playing record of 8 losses and just 3 wins would suggest a less than positive season for the 2nd XI. However, those figures mask the fact that three of the defeats came against the 1st teams of other schools, with any losses suffered against other 2nd XI teams only coming by one goal.

A number of other schools were unable to field a genuine 2nd XI, whereas we had enough numbers across the senior squad to field 3 teams - indeed 24 players pulled on a 2nd XI shirt over the year. In addition, the 2nd XI squad were keen and enthusiastic throughout the winter months, most of them regularly committing to after school training in a bid to improve their game.



The three season's victories came against Birkenhead (2-1), Abbotsholme (3-0) and Bolton School (2-1) as the team found the final pass and scoring touch that sometimes eluded them in other matches. Abdullah Atif was "ever present" over the year, and his goal against Birkenhead was as memorable for his celebration as it was for its impact on the game.

Key defender Jobin Joseph was another to play every game, whilst Oliver Craig (top scorer), Matthew Craig and Ali Hussain were other mainstays who made major contributions over the year. James Price, Asher Raymon, Alex Frangos, Finlay Buckley and Ali-Abbas Hussain Shas made a similar positive impression, whilst Elijah Willcocks showed no shortage of commitment and skill as a keeper and outfield player. Tom Dale justifiably earned promotion to the 1st team, while Jamie McCabe made a notable impact when not selected for the 1st team, and Charlie Cresswell produced some excellent goalkeeping when his rugby selections allowed. Returning to the sport after a two-year absence, Francesco Roncaroli

reminded the team what it had missed, and Oliver Gotts and Abdul Khalil were others who were selected for over half of the matches. Other pupils who played over the year were: Anson Wong, Toby Muirhead, Max Holmes, Alex Bailey, Thomas Krassowski and Jack Smith.

CST

U15 Boys

The U15 side had a stuttering yet positive season, with a very strong and large squad with lots of potential. The season eventually began in October with a narrow 2-1 loss to Sandbach, but the team showed plenty of promise for the season.

Early on in the term, the U15s welcomed a touring George Watson's College side from Edinburgh, losing 2-1 in a very exciting and good-spirited match. Following this, the team produced a complete performance beating a strong Manchester Grammar team 2-0 to take confidence into the beginning of their cup run.

The U15s faced a trip to Bradford Grammar in the first round of the Independent Schools Cup. The boys played some superb hockey on the day and progressed as comfortable 5-0 winners.

The season stuttered slightly heading towards Christmas, with only two more fixtures being played. Firstly, a return fixture against Manchester Grammar, this time suffering a 2-0 defeat.

This was followed by a thrilling game away at Calday, which the squad dominated from the start, but found themselves 1-0 down with less than 5 minutes to go, before Walter Lowe stepped up and scored two outstanding late goals to win the game. After Christmas, the season continued

in a similar fashion with good performances, but external factors prevented regular fixtures to implement all the hard work being done in training. The first fixture back resulted in the U15s coming out on top (3-2) in an end-to-end encounter with Rossall, with both sides producing some really good hockey.

Next up came the PowerPlay Tournament at Manchester Grammar. A 7-a-side tournament with a variety of different rules that really makes the boys think and try and experiment with how they play the game. After a disappointing start, the team showed great determination to win the plate competition. After beating Calday 3-0 in a dominant performance in the Independent Schools Plate competition, they narrowly lost 1-0 to MGS in a game in which they missed countless chances and unfortunately came up short.

The majority of the U15 side also represented the U16 side in the National Plate where they beat St Peter's York 6-3 in a thrilling game before losing to Altrincham Grammar in the quarter finals. A very strong season for the U15s before they move into the senior squads next year.

There were plenty of very strong individual performances throughout the season: Will Bennett developed into a very strong shot stopper and grew in confidence throughout the season. Hugo Blackwell and Ross Hallinan developed into a strong defensive partnership, whilst Alfie Usher and Walter Lowe controlled the midfield really well. Leo Burns won the most improved award through a series of energetic displays from midfield. Ted Hatton won the player of the



season award, displaying several skilful dribbling performances combining with a strong eye for goal which saw him turn into a really key member of the 1st XI squad during the season.

U14 Boys

The U14s had a very long and busy season. It started very brightly with encouraging Saturday morning wins against Merchant Taylors' (2-1) and St Bede's (4-0). This was followed by a very impressive 3-2 win against a strong Altrincham Grammar in the Cheshire Cup. Another tight Cheshire Cup victory over Sandbach put the U14s into the semi-finals where they would face Cheadle Hulme. A tough run of fixtures preceded that semi-final, including a trip to King's Chester, where we were blown away and found ourselves 4-0 down at half time. A much improved second half performance was delivered, but ultimately the boys found themselves at the wrong end of a 5-3 scoreline. Abbotsholme provided another really stern test for the U14s in a very competitive game, resulting in a 1-0 loss.

A highlight of the season came with touring side George Watson's College playing A and B fixtures

at U14 level which gave a great opportunity for boys on the edge of the A team squad to play some competitive hockey. On the day, the A team produced a clinical performance winning 5-0, with the Bs losing 1-0 in a tight match.

During the fixtures heading into and out of the Christmas break, the U14s began to really gather some momentum.

A Cheshire Cup semi-final win against Cheadle Hulme (2-1) was followed by a 2-0 victory over Stockport Grammar. Post-Christmas, the U14s extended their winning streak to six games with victories over some strong hockey schools, including Rossall (2-1), Newcastle (2-1), Bolton (2-0) and St Anselm's (2-1). The brilliant run was eventually ended by Denstone with a 3-0 defeat, in a match where the majority of the squad played in the U15 fixture immediately before.

Towards the end of February, the U14s competed in the North West Finals, unfortunately not producing their best hockey on the day. They fought valiantly to finish 3rd, narrowly losing to eventual winners Wirral Grammar in the semi-final in a game where we dominated, but couldn't find the quality in the final third.



The side had to bounce back immediately as swiftly following this was the delayed Cheshire Cup final against King's Chester. Competitive warm up fixtures against Newcastle (4-1 W) and Sandbach (1-1) put the boys in a strong position to face King's Chester. On the day of the final, the boys were in positive spirits and produced a terrific performance, showing plenty of quality and determination, yet ultimately fell short losing 2-1. However, this was a wonderful season filled with plenty of promise for a talented group.

There were plenty of strong individual performances throughout the season: Gabriel Wade got stronger and stronger throughout the season in goal and produced some very good performances towards the back end of the year. Noah Wild and Ben Campbell were very strong in defence and Ed Lovett and Jack Williams were very effective at the attacking end of the pitch. Thomas Hughes won the most improved player award, with some very strong displays in defence, whilst captain Harry Hardcastle won the player of the season award as led by example in both attitude and performance from midfield.



U13As

The U13A side have had a really encouraging season and have a squad full of talent and potential. Fixtures came thick and fast at the start of the season, with competitive fixtures against Manchester Grammar (L 4-0), Merchant Taylors' (W1-0), St Bede's (W 5-0), The Grange (W 6-1) and Newcastle (L 4-1).

Big improvements in attitude and performances followed after half term in games with St Edward's (W 4-3) and Sandbach (L 2-1). An impressive performance against a strong King's Chester in the Independent Schools Cup ended in a 4-0 loss, but showed the squad could compete with one of the strongest sides in the area.

After Christmas, the U13 played in the PowerPlay Tournament at Manchester Grammar. The boys competed really well and were very unlucky on the day losing in the Plate semi-final on penalties.

The U13s dropped into the Independent Schools Plate competition, where they began with a thrilling 2-1 comeback win against Rossall, with Ruben Tilling Jones scoring off a short corner on the last play of the game. Following this, a fixture

against Manchester Grammar where we couldn't quite match their level and came up short. The U13s also narrowly lost out on penalties in the Cheshire Cup semi-final, unfortunately losing after dominating the game and conceding late on.

It was a really positive season for the U13s, in which they showed plenty of promise ahead of moving into 11-a-side hockey next season. Individually there were plenty of very impressive performances: Goalkeeper Elijah Gaddum deservedly won the player of the season award, singlehandedly winning games through a series of great saves throughout the season. The most improved award went to Zach Thompson who developed into one of the most effective players in the side, combining natural athleticism and work ethic with his core skills developing really strongly.

U13B

The U13B squad had a really impressive season, winning 10/17 of their games and scoring a handful of goals in the process. Following a 5-0 defeat to Manchester Grammar in their opening game, the boys responded in fantastic fashion beating Merchant Taylors' 6-1 and St Bede's 13-0. Further victories followed against some strong hockey schools, including The Grange (3-0), Newcastle (3-2), St Edward's (2-0) and Sandbach (4-1).

After Christmas, the quality the team were producing was improving and also becoming very consistent. Wins against Rossall (4-0), St Anselm's (4-0) were followed by tougher games where the boys competed unbelievably well and learned

some valuable lessons against strong hockey schools such as King's Chester (L 3-1) and Denstone (1-1) and Loughborough (1-1).

The season ended fantastically with big wins against Stockport Grammar (6-0) and Calday (12-0), emphasising the strength in depth we have at this age group, which shows plenty of positive signs heading into next season where the A and B squads combine as they move into 11-a-side hockey. Harry Irving won the player of the season award, after scoring plenty of goals and always working really hard for the team. Harry Weston won the most improved award, as he developed into a really strong defender for the team.

U12A Boys

The U12A hockey team enjoyed an excellent season. There was great enthusiasm for the sport at Friday night training, and this translated into some real competition for places in the A and B teams. The season began with a 7-2 defeat for an inexperienced team at Newcastle-Under-Lyme. However, as the season effectively ended in the North Finals, the boys had secured a fine 3rd place finish in the North.

The boys got better and better over the season as their skills and game understanding improved. That improvement was underlined by the 11-0 victory over Calday on the final Saturday, a team that had been only beaten 4-2 earlier in the season. Midfielders Charlie Okell, "most improved" Guy Blackwell and Josh Jepson (who top scored with 12 goals) were the engine room of the side, and Charlie Okell thoroughly deserved his player of the season award. These three boys combined their developing



skill levels with great energy and determination to support the attack and defence. Gabe Adamson occasionally fulfilled a midfield role when he wasn't employed in attack, where he scored 10 goals, and Illy Khalifa demonstrated no shortage of skill and speed on his way to finding the goal 7 times.

Harrison King also provided some midfield direction, whilst Fred Finnie increasingly presented an attacking threat, principally down the right-hand side of the pitch. Toby Cooper, who deservedly also received a most improved award, and Josh Garner were the mainstays of the defence.

Both were instrumental in providing a solid platform for the team, with Josh Garner demonstrating a powerful slap pass, and Toby Cooper showing great speed and reading of the game. Louie Fitton displayed a growing understanding in defence, as did George English-Jones who deservedly earned promotion from the B team. Teddy Forrester also showcased some excellent movement and stick skills when he was available. Behind all these

boys were the two keepers, Rory Craik-White and Jacob Mooney. Both boys demonstrated some great shot stopping skills and good positioning in their goal, and they will be key team players moving forward. This was a great group of boys to work with. They showed real enthusiasm and commitment, and most importantly good listening skills – all things that will serve them well in their future hockey development.

CST

U12B Boys

This was an encouraging season of development for the U12B team. In all, some 29 boys played for the B team over the season, which is a tremendous achievement and reflected the interest at after school training. In addition, there were some excellent team and individual performances, as the squad's skills developed, and their confidence grew. The 4-1 final weekend victory over Calday Grange, reversing an earlier 3-0 defeat, was evidence of the overall improvement. Other good victories came against Rossall (4-0) and Denstone (3-0), whilst the boys



performed with great credit at the North West Finals, and the NULS match was drawn.

Keeper Jacob Mooney, George English-Jones and Caleb Khan were amongst the mainstays of the team. They provided the backbone to the defensive set up of the team, with Aidan Clarke also playing some matches in goal and outfield. Felix Ray, Craig Hallinan, Harry Unsworth, Harry O'Reilly and Harris Junli Zhu were other regular players who tended to operate in midfield and provided drive to the attacks as well as support in defence.

Freddie Baxendell, Harry Price, Harry Price, and Frankie Lawson – another keeper with potential – were other regular starters in a team that necessarily saw much player rotation. Fred Finnie, Harrison King, Teddy Forrester were key players when they were not representing the A team, and Bennie Byrne and Roman Walker were hugely influential when they were available.

Miles McCann, Xander Vipond, James Taylor, Ethan Brown, Sasha Hankins, Artie Ellis and Henry Heptinstall also made valuable contributions on match day.

CST



Girls' Hockey

1st XI and 2nd XI Girls

This year the Senior Hockey Squad was co-captained by Georgie Sanders and Sophie Fletcher, a fantastic pair who not only are great role models but also have so much love for the game. The season began with a tough but successful pre-season at school, including pitch sessions, classroom team building sessions, goal setting and pool recovery to prepare for the season ahead. A great opportunity for players to mix and get to know one another both on and off the pitch.

In the first week of the season the former pupils took on the current pupils, bringing together many past and present King's hockey players in a fun, good spirited, competitive game of hockey. It was great to see so many different faces from over the seasons on a sunny afternoon with some great support.

Early in the season we fielded a large squad against Wilmslow High which gave us an opportunity to see players in different positions and build up our small unit

play ready for upcoming cup competitions. With an unfortunate withdrawal due to unforeseen circumstances, King's didn't compete in the National Schools Competition this year, however, but did prepare for a successful National Independent Schools Cup Competition.

In the Independent Schools Cup Competition, the players travelled to Solihull who they knew were going to be strong. After a tough battle and some outstanding passages of hockey played, King's unfortunately lost, but a performance to be pleased with and progression into the National Plate Competition. Here the 1st XI had convincing wins against Withington and Mount St Marys College in freezing cold conditions. The team were into the quarter final of the National Plate and up against Scarborough College. This is where the competition ended for King's, another tough game against a strong opponent, the girls gave their all but on the day it wasn't enough. This was a great result reaching the quarter final and one the team should be proud of.

In November, the 1st XI played in the County Indoor Competition,



where they came runners-up to King's Chester, but proving really useful in preparation for the North West Finals the following week. The Finals were played at Rossall, again the team put out fantastic performances, scoring some incredible team goals. Unfortunately, they just missed out on the final and progressing to National Finals. Another successful and enjoyable indoor season. The 2nd XI enjoyed a game played in good spirit against Rishworth, finishing with a 5-0 win to King's.

Just before Christmas, the team travelled to Denstone, with end to end hockey and our keeper putting on a fantastic display of goalkeeping the players came away with a well-deserved draw, another gritty performance, showing that King's fight until the very end. February included a fixture at home against Cheadle. The players were certainly up for this game and played some excellent passing hockey, creating a number of goal scoring opportunities and defending like warriors to end victorious. One of the final games for both the 1st and 2nd XI was against Kirkham with the 2nd XI including some Year 10 players. The 1st XI drew 2-2 and the 2nd XI won 2-1, two successful games against a strong hockey school.

More success came the way of the 1st XI, when we held the County

Finals in March at home. King's were again determined to leave with a medal and try to defend their two-year unbeaten run. The girls out-played their opponents at times, however in the final minutes of the last game, King's conceded a goal and settled for silver this year in the Cheshire County Tournament.

At the end of March, we were again invited to the annual Senior 7s tournament at Cheadle Hulme. The girls dressed as Cow Girls for a fun filled afternoon, making memories and playing some excellent hockey. After coming 2nd in the group stages they progressed through to the semi-finals where they met King's Chester, a team that narrowly beat them in the County Finals. Determined to come out on top, King's Macc put out a strong performance and won the game on shuffles, putting them into the cup final. Here they were drawn against Kirkham which they knew would be a tough match. The game finished 1-0 to Kirkham and King's came runners-up this year, after a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon of competitive hockey.

The season finished off with a Senior Hockey meal and presentation evening held at The Botanist. Another emotional evening saying our goodbyes to the leavers and celebrating a another great season. All players found new friends, improved their games, trained with determination and had such fun over the season.

Thanks go to Captain Georgie Sanders who has coached over the year contributing hugely to the hockey programme. The

Coaches' Player of the Season for the Senior Team was awarded to Georgie Sanders, an incredibly hard-working player who has improved hugely over the last few seasons and the most improved player going to Sophie Payne, a force to be reckoned with, she possesses great skill in attack but also dominates with her defensive game. This was certainly another successful year for King's hockey and hopefully all players will continue to play at club or university and keep creating memories. **SAH**

U15 & 16 Girls

For the 2023/24 season there were good numbers at training which allowed for the team to have some rotation for mid week and weekend fixtures. With a few games cancelled due to poor weather the team played 9, won 6, drew 1 and lost 2 finishing with a respectable goal difference of +18. This team came off the back of a fantastic season last year resulting in finishing 5th at National Finals, showing they are able to compete at the highest level.

The season started against AKS, a side the players would always talk about as being strong and well drilled. Every player gave their all during this game, after a long bus trip to windy Blackpool. They defended well and even after conceding they came back stronger to fight to convert more opportunities, winning the game 4-2 and coming off the pitch with confidence for the season ahead.

Unfortunately, with a couple of opponents not able to field



teams and having to withdraw from the ISHC competition, King's were already at round 3 and drawn against King's Chester. Another away trip against a tough opposition, the players demonstrated their resilience and dug deep until the very end. An unfortunate deflection on a short corner resulted in a 0-1 loss, after spending a number of minutes at the other end of the pitch, but lots of positives to take from a game that could have gone either way. Due to other opponents pulling out, we were unable to move into the plate competition and progress any further.

The team's momentum grew and they took these strong performances into their next set of games, winning convincingly against Rossall, Fallibroome, AESG and The Grange School.

In October, it was the first round of the U16 National Schools Competition in which eight U15 players were selected to represent the school. The first opponent being Stockport Grammar, drawn at home. A high tempo, end to end game of hockey with the mix of players from different age groups gelling together well and playing some excellent passing hockey. The determined King's side finished the game with a 3-1 win and progressed to the 4th round against Rugby School in December. The squad travelled nearly 4 hours to Rugby, getting off the bus tired to meet a wet, windy afternoon.

We knew the opposition would be strong, with their previous performances and prior knowledge of the school hockey results. King's rose to the occasion, displaying some incredible hockey, showing determination to win every ball and create chances. The full-time whistle blew at 2-2 with a penalty corner to King's.

With a discussion at the top of the circle as to the routine they would execute, King's converted the corner with a deflection to win the game 3-2 and progress to the quarter finals of the National Cup.

The next game was King's Chester at home. King's couldn't keep the winning momentum going and after conceding against a tough side, heads went down. The players gave their all, with chances created but missed and King's Chester converting their opportunities this was the end of the road in the National Schools Competition.

This group of U15 players have so much potential and I look forward to helping their games develop further next season. Coaches' Player for the U15 team was awarded to Olivia Bray who has made a fantastic come back this season and been a real asset to the team. She is an absolute warrior in defence, keeping opponents out but also demonstrated her ability to take players on and create chances in penalty corners.

Most improved player for the U15 team was awarded to Lydia Wharfe who shows huge commitment and dedication to training, combined with an excellent attitude and willingness to learn and develop her game. Coaches Player for the U16 team was awarded to Poppy Fletcher, the captain of the team, who plays with such determination and tenacity and a want to win attitude. She has put out some exceptional performances this season and been the driving force behind the team, a season she should be proud of. Most improved Player for the U16 team was awarded to Alexa Watkins, the difference in her game from the start to the end of the season has been fantastic to see. Her work ethic is excellent



and she strives to improve her performance each week, listening to feedback and putting it into practice, a great season.

U14 Girls

During the season, the turnout at practice was extremely high which meant competition for places was very competitive. This translated into some great successes during the season with an overall record of 8 wins, 2 draws and one loss in regular fixtures. A goal difference of +16 also demonstrates the prolific nature of goalscoring within the team. More than 30 pupils had the opportunity to represent school and be rewarded for their dedication to training.

The transition from 7-a-side to 11-a-side is always a difficult one, with varying levels of experience coming together to form a larger team. The first match of the season was a loss against an AKS Lytham side with a few star players, but no strength in depth. We re-grouped quickly and began to identify how some of our players could thrive in new positions.

Beth Williams moved from a star striker in 7-a-side to a composed and skilful left half. This provided new opportunities for others to play up front and utilise the larger pitch area, Milly Hartley carved





out her role as an active forward who worked tirelessly to create chances for the team. This resulted in both players being awarded the most improved award.

As the hockey season progressed with each Saturday fixture, the squad became more settled and this resulted in 2-1 and 5-0 wins against Stockport Grammar and Altrincham Grammar School for Girls. This momentum carried the team through the first round of the National Schools Competition into the North West round at home. We peaked with some fantastic passing hockey and showed how dangerous we can be when we play as one.

After the Christmas break, we had several practice matches against our superb Year 10s to help prepare for the National Finals in February. Here we faced our toughest challenge yet, with some skilful opposition who worked excellently as a unit. At times we played some excellent hockey and Anvi Lalwani who stepped up from Year 8 to play in goal kept us in many matches. I have no doubt that the squad will have learned many valuable lessons on how to prepare effectively for tournaments and they can use those to great effect when they get their chance for redemption in the U16 competition.

Lottie Baxter wins the award for the coaches' player of the year. She is the ultimate role model, with a tireless work ethic, tenacious approach to sport and she combines this with a polite and gracious attitude at all times. I am really grateful for the support from parents who were at every home fixture and those who travelled with us to Nottingham for the National Schools Finals. I hope they saw the hard work ethic that we value in our sides; play hard, but fair.

A special thank you to Mr Barnard, Miss Bridgewater and Georgie Sanders. Without support of academic staff and Duke of Edinburgh Volunteers, we would not be able to offer the same level of coaching as we are currently able to.

JLD

U13A

With up to 35 pupils attending U13 practice and working incredibly hard, it was certainly difficult to make selection each week. I am pleased to say every player who attended training had the opportunity to represent the school in a competitive game.

The A team started the season against a strong AKS resulting in a 1-4 loss, with plenty to take away and learn from to develop their game. With hard work and commitment to training this transitioned into match play with convincing wins against SGS, AGSG, CHS, Withington, Wilmslow and Rossall.

In the 1st round of the ISHC, the team were drawn against King's Chester. With the pressure on and the team on top with high numbers of circle entries, the goals just didn't come. This led to King's Chester converting their one chance to win the game and King's Macc moving on to the plate competition. Here they came up against a tough Leeds Grammar played away from home. Again, the team took a while to get into their rhythm once they shook off the pressure and started playing some great passing hockey. The full-time result was a draw which followed with penalty flicks, resulting in the team losing and not progressing further in the

competition. An excellent effort showing the margins between teams, but some positives to take away in the amount of goal scoring opportunities the team created.

In February, the U13 IN2Hockey County tournament took place at home consisting of eight teams across Cheshire. The team turned up with confidence and came out on top beating King's Chester and progressing to the North West Finals. Wins vs Loreto and Ullswater and a draw against a strong Kirkham side put us into the semi-final against Sedbergh.

The team put on a fantastic end to end performance, defending exceptionally well finishing 0-0 at full time and going on to win on flicks. AKS were up next in the final, a team who they previously lost to at the start of the season. Unfortunately, it wasn't our day, losing 0-1 in the final minute of the game. The team showed just how far they have come over the season putting out a performance they should be proud of, narrowly missing out on National Finals.

Some players had the opportunity to travel to Nottingham with the U14 team to experience 11 aside tournament hockey at the National Finals. An experience they will remember and a good preparation for U14 Hockey next year.

U13B

With a few games cancelled by opponents, the B team still played 10 games, won 8, lost 2 with a goal difference of + 29, demonstrating their ability to convert opportunities in the circle. The team was rotated with large numbers representing the school each week. The B team won 8 of



their games by 2 or more goals, with convincing wins against AKS, SGS, Wilmslow, CHS and St Edwards. This makes for an exciting year when the players progress to 11 aside full pitch hockey.

All players improved and developed their skills over the season, turning up week in week out regardless of the weather with a great attitude to learning and progressing their game. It was fantastic to see how many players adapted to different positions and appreciated the roles others played within the team. This group of players have the attitude and competitiveness to really succeed.

I am grateful for the support from Miss Bridgewater and Miss Barrett for this season, helping the players improve and become confident in their own skills/ability.

Anvi Lalwani was awarded coaches player for the U13A, a determined, hardworking, competitive individual who put out some exceptional performances as goal keeper and putting in the hours to develop her game. Pippa Allen was awarded most improved

player for the U13B, a player who strives to improve on a weekly basis, her determination to do well, win the ball and attempt new skills is admirable. Lucy Bridgewater is awarded coaches' player for the U13B team. A complete role model for others, Lucy is polite, hardworking and has listened and implemented feedback each week, and combines this with an excellent attitude at all times.

Ellie Tomlinson is awarded most improved player for the U13B team for her commitment and tenacious attitude to improving in training. She gives everything on the pitch and her effort is fantastic.

U12 Girls

Several pupils represented both the A and B squads over the season due to their commitment to practices and improvements made over games sessions.

The 12A's season was a positive one, with 12 games played in friendly matches; 11 wins, and 1 loss in the first game of the season and a goal difference of +50, showing how many goal scoring opportunities were created. The

team took some convincing wins at the start of the season against Cheadle, Stockport, Fallibroome, Withington and Wilmslow, with goals that kept coming in the games that preceded these. Over the season their passing game improved and players kept training hard in preparation for their county tournament in March held at King's Chester. After a morning of hockey whereby King's dominated their opposition, they progressed into the final against King's Chester. This was an end to end game of hockey which finished with penalty shuffles and an excellent performance from Alice Garnett in goal led to a King's Macc win and the team bring crowned County Champions, a successful end to a very promising season.

The 12B's season demonstrated our strength in depth with this age group. In the 10 games played, all games were won, with the B team being undefeated. A huge 49 goals were scored and only 9 conceded finishing with an amazing goal difference of +40. A particular highlight was their strong start to the season beating AKS 3-2 followed by numerous convincing wins against Fallibroome, Cheadle, Withington, Rossall and Wilmslow.

Both teams had fantastic seasons with only 1 loss between them. They had excellent support each week from spectators and it was great to see their games improve vastly over the season. The coaches' player awards were awarded to Amelia Grace (A Team) and Annabelle Brown (B Team) and the most improved players awarded to Lily Hardcastle (A Team) and Lacey-Barton-Firbank (B Team). A special thank you must be made to Mrs Smith (lead coach), Mrs Westbrook and Miss Cunliffe who supported the players in training.

SAH



NETBALL



1st Team Seniors

As defending County Champions, the U19s Cheshire Schools Tournament was held in February indoors in Widnes. After a strong start with wins against The Grange, King's Chester and Sandbach, they were beaten by the eventual winners Sir John Deans in the semi-finals. There was then an epic battle which saw King's victorious against Wilmslow 11-10 with a golden goal scored by Bea Worlock to secure a bronze medal.

The Cheshire round of National Schools Cup was held at King's for the second year running. Despite comprehensive wins against Fallibroome, Lymm and AESG and a draw against Wilmslow, King's suffered two defeats to Sir John Deans and The Grange which resulted in finishing in third place. A great effort from all the athletes, especially as their talesman Lydia Hine was away with England Netball.

The seniors had a successful run in the Independent National Schools Cup reaching the third round. In September, they beat Leeds Grammar School at home 41-33, with Minty Kight receiving the players' player award. Special mention to Leah Shadwell for her tenacious defending and interceptions at Wing Defence. In the second round, in October, they were again at home and this time beat Birkenhead 47-38.

Minty Kight was again awarded players' player for her work rate, determined defending and accurate ball distribution. Lydia Hine, who played Goalkeeper, won some crucial interceptions.



In December, the Seniors travelled to Queen Ethelburga's Collegiate in the 3rd round but lost a hard-fought game 37-59. Players' player was awarded to Madi Baxter for her accurate shooting under considerable pressure from some very active defenders.

The seniors also played a number of Wednesday fixtures against other local schools and finished with a win rate of 65%. It was the end of an era for six of the seniors who have been playing together since Year 7: Lydia Hine, Madi Baxter, Aimee Venables, Leah Shadwell, Minty Kight and Gabby McIntyre. Four of the girls played in the season finale against AESG, winning a fiercely competitive encounter 33-31. We wish them well as they depart King's and are hopeful they can continue with their netball journey.

In terms of representative honours, Lydia Hine in Year 13 was again selected for the England Roses Academy. This nurtures the next generation of young Roses and is part of the England Netball



Player Pathway supporting young athletes on their development journey towards being potential senior England internationals. In addition, Lydia was captain of Manchester Thunder U19s.

Mention must also go to Madi Baxter in Year 13, who has continued on her netball coaching journey, and is working towards her Level 2 Coaching Qualification guiding and supporting a Cheshire academy of 26 junior athletes.

U16s

The U16s had a very much curtailed season due to the number of athletes who were playing up for the Seniors. It was very much to their credit that as the season progressed, the U16s became an integral part of the squad, contributing to the senior team's success.

The squad did however enter the Sisters in Sport National Competition, playing against Bolton School in the first round. It was unfortunately an early exit losing 12-61. Special mention to Maja Stafrin-Jones who was awarded player's player and Sophie Payne for coaches' player.

U15s

The U15s had what can best be described as a mixed season. A number of individuals were outstanding in terms of personal accolades and achievements,

but as a team they were less successful. Despite the losses they encountered as a squad, the athletes continued to work hard at training, and the coaches were very pleased to witness their resilience and continued commitment.

Their first run out of the season was in the Sisters In Sport National Competition against Birkenhead in September, losing 18-61. Lalli Brown was awarded players' player with some determined defending. In January, the squad played in the plate of the same competition against Manchester High School. Despite leading at the end of the first quarter and drawing at high time, some handling errors and a failure to take turnovers resulted in a 27-36 loss. Players' player was Esme Sutton with some excellent drives and great circle feeds.

The U15 Cheshire County Tournament was held in October. The squad unfortunately lost their pool games so reached the semi-final of the plate, but lost to Sandbach by 5 goals to 8. Coaches' player for the day was Esme Sutton who never stopped running and always worked hard in supporting her team mates.

There were some other notable performances during the season. Against AESG in January, Emily Carter, despite being an excellent shooter, played the whole match at Centre due to squad absences. Her work rate, defending back and the variety of feeds to shooters was excellent, and she was quite rightly awarded players' player. In their penultimate fixture away at Altrincham Grammar in March, we saw a revitalised Anya Clayton score from virtually every shot she attempted. Her movement was also effective, and she too was awarded players' player. The end of season awards saw her

awarded with the most improved trophy.

Congratulations go to Esme Sutton who gained a place on the National Welsh U15 academy, and alongside Jessica Leslie has worked hard within the Cheshire Player Development Pathway (PDP) representing Cheshire County at several tournaments. Both athletes were also selected for the Cheshire Tour to the Isle of Man in November. Lalli Brown also gained a place on the Greater Manchester PDP, and played in several regional tournaments.

U14

Another sensational year for the U14 netball team, with a copious amount of success. The season started off with the Sisters In Sport National competition with convincing wins over The Grange, Upton by Chester and Silverdale School to reach the 4th round; here they would find themselves playing local rivals Withington Girls' School, in a challenging match which ebbed and flowed, the eventual winners were Withington 24-31.

The National Schools Competition started in November on home turf, with the girls being placed in a pool of 5 teams, with wins in each match, the focus was on securing a win in the semi-finals, which would see them into the Regional round. A tight match against Upton (4-3) saw the girls through to the finals against Bridgewater, it was a nail biter but a successful win 9-5.

The regional finals took place at Stonyhurst College on a cold January day, a win against rivals Withington 11-8 in the semi-finals secured a place in the final; congratulations to all the players on their consistently high performance on the day. The season's highlight must be

qualifying for the National Schools finals at Oundle School in March. This ranked King's as one of the top 18 schools in the country; a fabulous achievement for this skillful squad. Having topped their group with 7 wins from 8, King's faced Birkhamstead (the eventual winners) in the semi-final. Despite some determined defense and outstanding through court transition, the team lost in extra-time by a single goal 12-13. In the 3rd and 4th place playoffs, King's unfortunately lost out to Yarm. Congratulations go to Orla Nash from Year 7 and Eva Sheppard, Anvi Lalwani and Naina Vasireddy from Year 8 who were an integral part of the team's success.

Success was not confined to just the national stage; for the third year running this talented group of players won the Cheshire U14s County Cup tournament in March. Acknowledgement must go to Captain Lola Bianchi, who was player of this tournament with her leadership both on and off the court.

MJS





U13

The U13s continued to be a very enthusiastic and motivated year group throughout the year, with approximately 40 girls regularly attending practice each week.

The U13B squad won 4 out of 7 of their friendly matches. Early defeats against Cheadle Hulme and Withington school were soon put behind them and the team made good progress, with notable wins against King's Chester, Fallibroome and The Grange. The U13A team's first match of the season was in the Independent Schools Netball Cup against Manchester High School. This was a close competitive game, but a narrow loss sadly saw them fall into the Plate competition. They progressed well through this competition with convincing wins against Birkenhead School and Hulme Grammar (52-21). Unfortunately, in the quarter finals, a loss against The Queen's School Chester (17-28) meant they were knocked out of the competition. Special mention goes to Orla Nash (U12) who made a valued contribution to the team for this occasion.

The team enjoyed a successful season overall, winning 9 out of 13 friendly fixtures on Saturday mornings. They progressed as individuals and as a team throughout the year and had much to celebrate.

At their County tournament in March, the team demonstrated some superb netball skills and slick team work to win all of their pool matches and the semi-final against Bridgewater 10-7. However, they sadly lost against their nemesis, The Grange, in the final, having previously beaten them in the pool game, to finish as U13 County Runners-

Up. Player of the tournament was Naina Vasireddy for very accurate and consistent shooting; while Sophia Kong and Lottie Winterton also made significant contributions.

Individual recognition goes to Anvi Lalwani, Eva Sheppard and Naina Vasireddy for their Cheshire PDP representations this year and for their contribution in playing for the U14 team in the Finals of the National Schools Tournament at Oundle School. This was an amazing opportunity for these girls, and they were instrumental in the team finishing in a very creditable 4th place. At the Sports presentation evening, Grace Oldfield received U13B Most Improved Player and Isla Machin received U13B Coaches Player and for the U13A team Apolonia Olpinski received Most Improved Player and Naina Vasireddy was awarded Coaches Player.

LB

U12

The U12 A and B netball teams have both had plenty of success this year. With nearly 40 eager and talented girls to train, picking teams has been fluid to allow as many player opportunities as possible.

The U12B team has been the most fluid this season, with lots of girls playing in different matches. They played 7 friendly matches against local schools including Wilmslow, AESG, Fallibroome, Altrincham Grammar and Birkenhead with comfortable

wins, they drew to Withington Girls' School and lost to CHS, at the start of the season.

The 12A squad had just as much success and started off the season in the SnS competition, where they played Queen's Chester in round 1, winning confidently 20-1. A bye followed and the girls moved quickly into round 3 playing local rivals Withington Girls' School. This was a challenging match with lots of positive play from both teams, but the overall victors were Withington 17-29.

Throughout the rest of the season, friendly matches were played with mixed results: over half being wins but many were cancelled due to poor weather. The finale of the season was the Cheshire County Tournament held in Winsford, in March. The girls were up for the challenge and entered the pool rounds with Lymm, The Grange, AESG and Queen's Chester. The girls narrowly lost to The Grange by 1 goal (1-2) but with wins in the other matches gained a place in the semi-finals against Wilmslow. From the centre pass, the girls meant business and dominated the game, winning comfortably 5-1. The only way was up, with a final against an unknown opposition, Bridgewater School, the game was tense but challenging for both teams and equal in ability, however, as the final whistle blew King's were just pipped to the post, with a loss 7-8 and were County runners-up.

MJS



ROUNDERS



There was an excellent turnout at rounders practices throughout the season, although the inclement weather meant that some practices had to be cancelled. The teams enjoyed some friendly mid-week fixtures against local schools. The U15 team had a close game against Withington losing 10-11, but the U14s were defeated heavily 5-21.5. The U12 and U13s levelled out the scores with wins for the U12B (13.5-11.5) and U13A (7.5-6). U12A and U13Bs lost 9.5-10.5 and 8.5-14.5 respectively.

Unfortunately, the fixture against Cheadle Hulme School was cancelled due to the wet weather but the younger teams had fixtures against The Grange and Fallibroome where they were all victorious: U12A team won 13.5-10 and U12B team won 20-9. The U13A team won 8.5-7 and the U13B team won 10.5-9 against The Grange. Later in the term, the teams displayed some excellent batting and skilful fielding against Fallibroome school; the U12As won 16.5-15, U12Bs won 23-5.5, U13A won 11.5-9 and the U14s won 9.5-5.5.

Several players impressed throughout the season: Lucy Worthington and Connie O'Doherty were strong batters and top scorers, Sophia Kong emerged as a fast accurate bowler and Lottie Winterton demonstrated fast and effective reactions as a backstop. Emily Case also exhibited some excellent fielding skills and scored many rounders for the U15 team.

LB

RUGBY



1st XV

The 1st XV held on to the Cheshire County Cup crown in dramatic fashion. A last minute try from 70+ metres finished by England and Sale Sharks Centre Toby Wilson. This would be the highlight in another hugely successful season, which saw the most competitive fixture list gathered in 94 years of rugby played at King's.

The players returned from a gruelling tour of New Zealand's North Island and Malaysia feeling fit and confident and this would be proven worthy after an unbeaten 1st XV Festival and victories to open the campaign over Lancaster RGS (28-26W – last minute penalty from Fred Riordan) and a dominant margin against QEGS Wakefield. Next up, we experienced our own heartache with a last-gasp loss (17-21 L) against new block opponents Northampton School for Boys. Cup victories swiftly followed too, with Liverpool College and Barnard Castle despatched, albeit against Barney a 17-17 D meant the 'away side' rule favoured us. Whilst in the Cheshire Cup, a walkover and a huge victory against Brine Leas was closely followed by a floodlit victory away against St Anselm's College (0-18 W).

November would be the month to forget. Stonyhurst College's water-based pitches once again meant cancellation. Kirkham GS knocked us out of the National Cup and frustratingly we weren't able to show our 'best version' on that afternoon. Whilst the real low point of the season was a loss against Ellesmere College. The Shropshire-side were excellent on the day, but a lesson harshly



learned that there are no 'easy' games at this level and the King's jersey now comes with a 'target on its back'. There was a narrow loss against Sedbergh School (20-24 L), but having been 9-points away last season, the gap has become agonisingly close.

We rolled into the New Year looking to find our best form and claim a second Cheshire title. An excellent performance and victory against Solihull School (28-17 W) another victory against St Anselm's, though this time by an even more healthy margin (7-45 W) and a terrific redemption tale, defeating Kirkham GS's Development XV at Derby Fields (32-19 W).

However, the moment the players had all craved was the County Final under Wilmslow RUFC's lights. St Ambrose were our challengers and their fly half had a marvellous game, causing problems with his kicking game, which was almost enough to claim the win seemingly all on his own. The King's School had other ideas and clearly had more weapons across a hard-hitting forward pack and an elusive back-line.

Toby Wilson quite rightly took the headlines, but the squad around him were superior across the pitch and indeed Cheshire once more. Freddie Griffiths (No. 8) lofted our trophy high into the night sky and deservedly claimed his third County title (once as an U16).

As the Sevens season rolled round, some warm-up fixtures hosted by Denstone College proved excellent preparation. Although the Cheshire Competition and Stonyhurst fell to inclement weather, King's, led by flyer Koby Wilkinson, claimed their first title – the Solihull Plate. Then came Rosslyn Park and for the first time King's had been moved up into the Cup competition and seemingly given a 'group of death'. The opening game was a tough lesson, but we should have defeated Stowe School (12-10 L), this gave our confidence a hit and although a brave showing on RE1 meant we ran Clifton College close, we entered our fourth and final match without a win. However, despite trailing as the clock had turned red, King's simply 'never die' and a last play match-winning try showed we are certainly contesting the right competition and deserve to 'dine at the top table'.

This would be backed-up at Sedbergh National Tens two days later, as we progressed in the Cup



competition there as well. Losing to the hosts and Seaford College meant we wouldn't challenge for the trophy, but a hard-fought battle in the mud and monumental defensive effort saw us defeat a very well-resourced Ipswich School.

I wouldn't usually highlight individuals but I cannot conclude the season review without mentioning a couple: Christian Tattum has been simply unplayable all season, the best player 'over the ball' in the country but now an 'all rounder'. He defends brilliantly and has become an excellent distributor too. Countless times, staff were asked "who is the guy in the red scrum-cap?". 'Tatts' has a very bright future ahead, we were also thrilled to see him Captain England North U18 and play alongside team-mates Noah Wolstenholme (prop) and Ollie Jones (hooker). Toby Wilson, mentioned already for his Cup heroics, but more impressive were his performances against Sedbergh and Sandbach. Neither school could lay a glove on him. Toby is a terrific talent and leaves a legacy behind. He has signed professional terms with Sale Sharks for the 2024/25 season and his inclusion for England U18s is

well documented. Once recovered from injury, we hope to see Toby show professional rugby what King's supporters have witnessed for the last seven years. His attitude and ability make him the perfect role model to all our future stars. King's rugby continues to go from strength to strength. The departing Year 13 group will look back proudly on the legacy they have built.

GJHH & RJ

2nd XV Rugby

It was a bit of an up and down season for the 2nd XV as the playing record of 4 wins and 7 losses would suggest. We scored 196 points and conceded 260 which suggests that defensive errors were a major issue with too many first up tackles missed.

The boys worked hard in training and kept up their enthusiasm for the game in what is a tough fixture list. Of the 11 games played, we were only heavily beaten twice, against Sedbergh School and Northampton School for Boys, conceding 50 points in both games.

The wins came against Sandbach School, Cheadle Hulme School, Fallibroome and Solihull School and, of the other games, we should have beaten Lancaster RGS, Ellesmere College and St Anselm's College.

All together, we used 32 players throughout the season with Tom Ravenscroft, Ollie Carter, Charlie Saunders, Thatcher Nulty and Zac Wright playing in every game.



Fin McElroy was an excellent captain and led from the front on the pitch. We also had four new entrants to the Sixth Form who also played their part within the team. Zac Ransom had a fine season, carrying the ball well from Number 8 and also putting in some sterling work in defense. Ollie Rogerson always worked exceptionally hard around the field and in the lineout. Charlie Barnes performed consistently well in the centre, running good and powerful lines. Last but not least, Daniyal who showed great effort at training and for always giving it a go even though he found it challenging.

Millar Anderson played consistently well at hooker. Eben Cooper was always good at the breakdown and Ollie Woodward and Caolan Coulthurst proved to be good lineout options. Ollie Carter grew in confidence as the season progressed and had some fine games as did Charlie Saunders. Matthew Ennis proved to be an elusive winger and got better as the season progressed. I would also like to say a huge well done to Tom Ravenscroft who regularly played out of position and always worked exceptionally



hard in every game. 2nd XV Player of the year is James Brady.

SB

U16A

The U16 season was never going to be the "Glitz and Glamour" seasons that had preceded them. For a start, they were working without their talismanic coach and some of their core players who were being pushed further in the 1st XV. The season was all about grit and determination and, the sooner the players realised that, the more understanding they would have about the journey they were on. Lancaster RGS, QEGS Wakefield and Northampton School for Boys provided a really gentle introduction to the season... it probably doesn't take a rugby purist to know that, this trio of schools is a baptism of fire.

As they continued on through the season the players started to realise their strengths and they organised themselves in training and games sessions professionally. The highlight of the season was the Quarter-Final of the County Cup on a Wednesday afternoon away at Stockport Grammar School. Conditions were blustery and winning the toss certainly helped. Some would argue the score line flattered the

players, but they were relentless and the game provided a really good wake up opportunity for the squad.

This game should have provided the catalyst for performances during the rest of the season but sadly the next six consecutive Saturdays were cancelled. After a loss in the Semi-Final to a full-strength St Ambrose College, the season finished on a high vs Audenshaw. Most of this side will Tour Australia in 2025 and I look forward to observing how they develop as players and men. Make no mistake this season was tough, but it will have made each and every player 100% more resilient and thus a better rugby player moving forward.

PJL

U15A

The A team's season was a journey filled with exhilarating highs and challenging lows, providing ample opportunities for growth and learning. Their campaign commenced with a series of impressive victories against Lancaster RGS, QEGS Wakefield and Northampton School for Boys. Against Lancaster RGS, the U15As demonstrated remarkable



resilience, clinching a hard-fought 24-10 win fuelled by standout performances from Joe Sheppard and Alex Cresswell.

Their encounter with QEGS Wakefield, a team boasting a formidable track record, resulted in a resounding 42-17 triumph, with Joe Moores, Josh Phillips, and Harley Coulson spearheading the charge. The match against Northampton School for Boys proved to be a nail-biter, with King's emerging victorious by a narrow margin of 32-29, propelled by stellar displays from Xander Hunter, scoring a hatrick and Will Hayes, playing his first game at fly half.

However, the season encountered a rough patch characterized by disappointing performances against Merchant Taylors', just sneaking over for a win and St. Mary's College, Crosby, resulting in the cup campaign ending earlier than anticipated. A sobering loss to Sandbach served as a wake-up call, emphasizing the importance of never underestimating opponents. Despite facing a formidable opponent in Royal Belfast Academical Institution, the team displayed commendable resilience and determination.

As the season progressed, King's managed to regain their momentum, securing victories



against Ellersmere College and Stonyhurst College. Their encounter with Sedbergh proved to be a stern test of their mettle, with the result not reflecting the team's valiant efforts. Post-Christmas saw a resurgence in their form, as they delivered commanding performances, notably against Solihull, St. Anselm's and Audenshaw, showcasing their defensive prowess and tactical acumen, courtesy of great performances by Freddie Hempstock, Adam Lancaster, Rory Horne and Elliot Woodward. The only loss that occurred after Christmas was against St. Ambrose, where the U15s showed great character to come from 12-0 down to be drawing, only to concede a try with the last play of the game.

In the realm of 7s rugby, the team faced a condensed season due to adverse weather conditions, but nonetheless managed to make a significant impact. Notable performances in the Myles Marshall, where they made it to the final only to be beaten by a very good Sedbergh side, and the Cheshire School 7s, highlighted the team's versatility and adaptability in a short period of time. The Cheshire School 7s Championship victory served as a crowning achievement, underscoring their collective skill and determination in besting St. Ambrose in the final, thanks to Freddie Hempstock's heroics.

Throughout the season, a total of 25 players proudly represented the A team, with ten individuals earning selection for the Sale

Sharks U15 DPP. Jack Saunders' outstanding contributions and unwavering consistency earned him the accolade of U15A team player of the year, a testament to his leadership and resilience in the face of adversity.

XVs Record – P14, W9, L5
Vlls Record – P10, W7, D1, L2

BT

U15B

The U15B season began on a challenging note with a 17-5 defeat against Lancaster RGS, marking the end of their year-long unbeaten streak. However, they quickly rebounded with a resounding 29-0 victory over QEGS Wakefield, fuelled by standout performances from Monty Logsdail, George Clarke and Winston Kempe.

The season was plagued by cancellations, disrupting fixtures against Northampton School for Boys, Sandbach and Cheadle Hulme. Despite this, King's delivered a commanding 24-5 win against Fallibroome, showcasing resilience and teamwork with key contributions from Charlie Coates, Cody Storey and James Strong.

Facing Royal Belfast Academical



Institution proved to be a daunting challenge, with King's demonstrating commendable effort despite the eventual outcome. A thrilling 24-22 victory over Stonyhurst highlighted the team's determination, led by Jack Taylor, Ollie Walsh and James Strong.

Further cancellations marred games against GSAL and Audenshaw, leaving the final match against St. Ambrose. Despite a slow start, King's rallied with contributions from Tom Leigh and Charlie Coates resulting in Walter Lowe and Winston Kempe adding finishing touches but ultimately succumbed to a 53-21 defeat. The U15B team played a crucial role in player development, with 10 members progressing to the A team. Charlie Coates was recognized as the U15B Player of the Season for his consistent performances and invaluable contributions, seamlessly transitioning into the A team.

P7, W3, L4.

DT

U14A

The U14 season will ultimately be remembered for the standout 29-19 victory over a strong Collegiate side, which marked the King's first National Championship since rugby has been played at the school some 94 years ago.

The National Final, played at a resplendent Rugby School on the very pitch where in 1823 William Webb-Ellis first picked up the ball,

was by no means typical of the U14s season. For one thing, it never seemed in doubt after a rampant opening 15 minutes saw King's build an unassailable lead with two tries and conversions.

The rest of the cup run was a far nervier affair, with narrow victories against Hymers clinched with the last kick of the game and Prince Henry's, which saw the lads battling the opposition and every additional challenge that was thrown at them. A special mention should be given to the 6-3 victory over Northampton School for Boys, which showed the sort of defensive vigour that is more suited to epic poetry rather than an end-of-year-round-up, think the Spartans at Thermopylae by way of the M1 and you'll have a rough idea.

The rest of the season saw the U14s undefeated and broadly untroubled, apart from a momentary lapse at Sedbergh, which saw the boys punished with a 28-5 loss and nursing a painful lesson about making the most of early dominance. If nothing else this will whet the appetite for the return fixture next season. Anticipation will be building too for a return trip to the 7s tournaments including Rosslyn Park which fell at the end of a hectic season and saw an exhausted King's squad come third, with thanks to industrial quantities of Haribo.

The truly remarkable thing about



this U14 team and their season, was the togetherness shown by the players. It became a running joke on the touchlines that every time they were pushed, they somehow managed to find another gear. The players, intelligently captained by Hayden Oliver, Harry Ashbrook and Fred Bartle, displayed precisely the sort of heart and character that we know rugby is so good at developing. If they can continue to give that level of energy and fight for each other in the coming U15s season then there's every reason to expect great things.

JPB

U14B

This year, Mr Milner enjoyed a great season with the U14B team and described the experience as an 'absolute pleasure'. The pupils' attitude towards rugby, their commitment to training, and their desire to improve as players have been fantastic. Results have been varied, but the progress compared to last year has been clear,



showing how much the team has grown together.

Some of the highlights of the season have been their victories against Sandbach, Cheadle Hulme, Stonyhurst College and Audenshaw. These wins really showcased the team's hard work, determination and quality. Each victory was a testament to their dedication and skill, reflecting the countless hours they spent on the training ground perfecting their techniques and strategies.

As a team, they worked together and supported each other, which will definitely benefit them in the coming years. The sense of camaraderie and teamwork was evident in every match, with players consistently encouraging one another and celebrating each other's successes.

Many of the pupils are eager to make the A team, and several are right on the edge. This has resulted in competition for the A team being extremely competitive, pushing each player to strive for their best. It was great to see Tom Machin, Miles Smethurst, Tom Ingelby and Harry Tunmore all move up, proving that hard work pays off.

Confidence is high that they will continue to improve. Well done on a great season! The future looks very bright for these talented young players.

HM

U13A

The U13s had a season filled with remarkable highs paired with some considerable learning experiences. The boys played 11 matches, securing 5 wins and facing 6 losses. Despite the challenges, they demonstrated resilience and growth throughout the season.

After a tough start to the season, the boys secured impressive wins against Sandbach School (15-10), Cheadle Hulme School (30-10), Ellesmere College (60-5), Trafford Schools (25-20) and Audenshaw School (25-15). These victories showcased their skill, determination and ability to work together effectively.

The match against Ellesmere College was a standout performance, with the boys scoring a season-high of 60 points, reflecting their offensive strength and strategic execution on the field. The win against Trafford Schools was a testament to the boys' ability to perform under

pressure, winning with a narrow margin of 25-20.

The boys' dedication to training and development throughout the season was evident in their improving performances. Across the board, individuals showed significant development in their skills, teamwork, and understanding of the game.

While the boys faced losses against strong opponents in Lancaster RGS, QEGS and NSB, these matches provided valuable learning opportunities.

A particular highlight of the year was the tour in Cardiff (see right). The boys had a fantastic time learning what rugby is truly about – friendship, teamwork and accountability, especially during the court session! They experienced a professional rugby environment in world-class training facilities and had the unique opportunity to play at the famous Cardiff Arms Park.

Overall, the King's U13 rugby team had a season filled with growth, excitement and promising performances. The boys' ability to bounce back from losses and celebrate victories with grace sets a strong foundation for future success.

FB



U13B

B Team rugby can often throw different players together each week in a variety of different positions. The strength of this talented squad has been its stability and teamwork. The boys know each other's games so well that they demonstrate exciting flowing rugby in attack paired with organisation and commitment in defence. It was no surprise to me to see their try against St Anselm's hailed as one of the school's tries of the season.

The major development in their collective game has been in organisation and structure to their play. It can be hard to bring what you do on the training pitch into games, but this team have proved able to do that with increasing consistency. This is exemplified in the power of the forward pack's support play, led by George Hufton. Tom Bowen is a formidable force in the tackle, and Samuel Rodwell, Noah Bryan and Jacob Fitton have managed the breakdown confidently. Yezenn Charbek developed into a solid defender, and is one to watch next year, and Reuben Byrne has developed into a reliable front row at set play.

Sef Cooper, often the loudest voice on the pitch, keeps the team ticking over in attack. This really clicked in a big win against CHS, where Will Birchenall found space and demonstrated composure to dominate the game. Our centres have changed around, but Wes Green, Austin Haines and Evan Langman have all got on the score sheet this year. Defensively there are few better, and Tom Dyer has only enhanced that when he came in late in the season. Fleet of foot, our wingers have also picked up tries. Sam Wood, Matthew Gale, Jack Hutchins and Ollie Hodgson are rarely caught when given the chance to stretch their legs!

Perhaps the most encouraging moment of the year was seeing this squad pull together as a 15-a-side team in Cardiff. Along with those players returning to the fold, or even starting rugby for the first season, I am confident they will continue to develop both their skills and love of the game.

PJC

U13 Rugby Tour, April 2024

This year it was the turn of Mr Barker and Mr Cooper's teams to embark on the annual U13 Rugby Tour to Cardiff. The tour got off to a very fast start, and the team was

thrown straight into the deep end by playing a match on the way down to Cardiff against St. Peter's High School, Gloucester.

Both matches against St. Peter's were very well-contested and played in great spirits by all teams. Mr Barker's A Team showed much improvement with Zach Johnson-Aardewerk and Neven Dunnigan putting in great performances, but unfortunately the final result meant a 40-5 victory for St. Peter's. However, Mr Cooper's B Team put in a fantastic performance to come out as 40-25 winners against a very powerful team. King's put in a fantastic defensive display, with some great tackles from Jacob Fitton and Wes Green, and were extremely well organised in attack, thanks to Sef Cooper and Will Birchenall, who were able to utilise strong runners such as George Hufton, Ruben Tilling Jones, and Tom Bowen to break down the opposition for Evan Langman, Matthew Gale and Sam Wood to score.

On day 2, the U13s learned how to play the 15-a-side game for the first time in a detailed training session from all the coaches including the experience of Mr Langley, Mr Cookson and Mr Milner. The U13s learned the fundamentals of the scrum and lineouts in the forwards, while the backs looked at running lines and went through some new options in attack. Day 3 resulted in the U13s spending some time away from the rugby pitch and spent a morning in Barry Island, before doing a tour of the Principality Stadium, which included spending time in the Welsh changing room, being pitch side, sitting in the Royal Box and even the media room.



The final day was the busiest, the morning was spent at The University of South Wales Sports Park, where pupils were treated like professional athletes for the morning. These wonderful facilities have been used previously by Wales Football, Cardiff City FC, The British Lions and New Zealand Rugby and were more than adequate for King's. The U13s were given an in-depth Video Analysis session by Mr Torgut, where they learned the importance of analysis and what the coaches were trying to implement, then there was chance to use the indoor 4G pitch and benefit from Mr Barker's strength and conditioning session in the gym.

Later that evening, the U13s had the opportunity to play a match against Y Pant Comprehensive in the legendary Cardiff Arms Park. The match itself finished 50-10 to Y Pant, however, the match was much tighter than the score line suggests. King's got off to a fantastic start with some great attacking intent and dotted down early, they then defended bravely, but unfortunately Y Pant were too strong and ran out deserved winners but were made to work hard for every score. There were standout performances

throughout this match, with Oscar Howarth looking calm and composed, Zachary Harper being everywhere with his carrying and tackling, Jacob Fitton putting in some huge tackles, before Noah Bryan Mujahid scoring a fantastic try. This was the first taste U13s had of the 15-a-side game, and will prepare them well for next season.

Overall, the U13s were fantastic ambassadors for the school and conducted themselves in fantastic fashion throughout the duration of the tour.

U12A

The season got started in fine form away at QEGS Wakefield a notoriously difficult venue to visit. After two weeks of training the players were ready to test themselves defensively and demonstrate some silky skills in attack. The team were always going to be a physical bunch, that much was obvious from the first training session. Selections were largely determined by tackling skills and this shone through throughout the season. The fixtures then came thick and fast and not many school boy rugby fixture lists would boast back-to-back fixtures featuring the previously mentioned

Yorkshire school and the infamous Northampton School for Boys. A narrow loss on a narrow pitch away at Burton RFC. The players never gave up and scoring two tries of their own they enjoyed some control in the game, but mistakes were punished and the opposition will prove to be an excellent test for this side in future years.

Disappointingly, the middle of the season was washed out. Weather prevented several Saturday competitive matches from taking place and a number of players were in line to make their debut on those days. They eventually got their chance, but some of the momentum was stolen from their season. It was really disappointing as prior to this string of cancellations the boys put in a huge performance against Ellesmere College. A very professional performance on a fresh November afternoon. Pods of forwards were hanging off the scrum half's shoulder to make dents in the defensive line and when the defence was sucked in the key decision makers and flying backs finished their opportunity with a ruthless edge.

A great deal of learning happened throughout the season and the final two losses provided the opportunity for the players to bounce back on the final day of the season, only for this fixture to also be subject to a cancellation, again no fault of our own. The players were a credit to the school crest whenever they took to the field and I wish them luck for the future.

PJL



U12B

The team were desperately unlucky this season with a number of fixtures cancelled due to poor weather. Despite this, the squad's positive spirit was reflected in the consistently high numbers that turned out for training.

The enthusiasm for the sport has been fantastic to see and I have been greatly impressed with the students' commitment and willingness to learn, combined with a great pool of talent. The togetherness of the squad was notable, particularly during some tough moments in games. The team fought back bravely against Audenshaw School to draw the match 20-20 against a physical pack and they demonstrated great resilience to get back into the game.

They were also very unlucky to lose to QEGS Wakefield and can take great pride from this performance. The attacking flair really came to life in a comprehensive 45-15 win against St Anselm's College. Despite the poor weather conditions, the movement of the ball down the attacking lines caused havoc in the opposition's defence.

The second B team have made great progress in their training and development and scored an impressive amount of tries in their matches. I am incredibly excited about the abundance of talent in the squad and I look forward to seeing them develop and challenge for A Team positions.

WJK

SAILING



King's long-standing sailing tradition continues with the next generation of sailors making their mark at both Redesmere and Cumbrae sailing centres. Students with a wide range of abilities have enjoyed the challenges of sailing during the Tuesday and Wednesday sessions, with many of the more experienced sailors taking on instructor roles. Sailing presents a number of physical and mental challenges, and it has been a pleasure to watch students develop confidence and skills throughout the year in, at times, very challenging conditions. Resilience is one of the learning habits at King's and has been extensively demonstrated by the students willing to go out in any weather.

Particular thanks go to Edward Hammonds, Rhodri Evans and Callum Evans who have displayed a maturity beyond their years and have been developing their instructor skills helping younger, less experienced students. Year 10 student Callum Barr also proved an exceptionally able sailor and one to watch for the future.

The Saturday Sailing Club also continues to be a success with help from former students, parents and support from Gary and Brenda Lowe. The annual trip to Cumbrae was a great success with 33 students achieving RYA recognised qualifications ranging from Level 1 sailing to advanced sailing with spinnakers and powerboat qualifications. A variety of boats were sailed, ranging from Laser Picos to high performance Dart catamarans. The King's Sailing

Club meets three times a week at Redesmere Lake, and offers an invaluable opportunity for students to develop essential sailing skills while promoting teamwork, responsibility, and personal growth.

Sessions start with a briefing on safety protocols and sailing techniques, followed by practical sailing sessions where students applied what they learned. All levels of skill are accommodated, and it has been good to watch more advanced sailors coach and mentor the beginners. Sailing involves a multitude of skills such as teamwork, responsibility and problem solving. With typical Macclesfield weather making an appearance on more than one occasion, I've been impressed by students' willingness to tackle harsh conditions.

Particular thanks go to Miss Wells for generously giving up her time on Saturday mornings to provide safety cover as well as former student and now fully qualified race coach Derrin Scott for delivering sessions on advanced racing techniques. Former pupil Zac Spencer Pickup also proved himself to be a competent safety officer and power boat driver, and was well respected by the group.

King's Sailing Club is more than just a recreational activity; it is a comprehensive program that nurtures essential life skills. By participating in this club, students learned how to sail, but also develop invaluable skills that will serve them well beyond their school years. The club's emphasis on teamwork, communication, and responsibility, has cultivated well-rounded individuals prepared for the challenges of the future.

ARP

SWIMMING



In the pool, our Junior swimmers were undefeated throughout the season. Their remarkable performance earned them spots in the English Schools Association Swimming finals for both boys and girls relays. This accomplishment highlights the exceptional talent and hard work of our swim teams.

Additionally, we hosted the AJIS Swimming Gala for 18 schools, which was a huge success, further promoting our philosophy of sports for all. The House Gala was another highlight, with every child in the Juniors taking part. The event fostered a sense of community and healthy competition among the children, making it a memorable occasion for all involved and emphasising our inclusive approach.

This year saw the introduction of the Year 6 Biathlon, adding a new and exciting dimension to our sports programme in the Infant & Junior Division.

We held a 24-hour charity swimathon across the whole foundation, starting with our youngest swimmers in Reception and through the whole foundation. Our Senior swimmers swam throughout the night, we swam an incredible 231,987.5 meters overall which is a huge achievement.

The Senior division have also been undefeated in all galas throughout the year for both girls and boys U12, U13 and U14. They showed impressive performances in the pool both home and away which has been brilliant to see. The seniors have particularly enjoyed the introduction of more water polo into their lessons and House Activities Day which was a great success.

The Junior morning training squad has been a great addition and supported the incredible performance of our teams in the division. Our Senior squads are also growing which is something that we hope will continue to develop and aid our success in the future in the pool.

JP

TABLE TENNIS



This has been an extraordinary year for Table Tennis. Thanks to a bumper crop of Year 7 pupils joining, the sessions on Monday afterschool and Tuesday lunchtime have been particularly busy.

This year also marked our return to the Cheshire Schools Table Tennis Competitions, to much enjoyment. The U13 boys (Guy Blackwell, Teddy Forrester, Chace Ingoe, Lorenzo Roncaroli) came first in the Teams championship in November, and then Joint 3rd in the North West Regional Final, despite fierce competition and being younger than most of their opponents; they will be keen to see if they can exceed this high bar next year.

The students then brought home some more silverware in the Individual Championships in April, with Lorenzo Roncaroli taking 3rd and Guy Blackwell 2nd; Amelia Grace also gained the honour of being the first female student to represent King's at these tournaments for quite some time. Sooner after, some of the more experienced students had an opportunity for more one-on-one training, when professional coach David Billington came in after Easter for some Monday sessions; hopefully we can develop this further next year.

Of course, Table Tennis isn't just about winning medals, and individual students have been making huge progress – right from learning how to properly hold a racket, all the way up to complicated multi-ball drills and facing Mr Mallin's fearsome Table Tennis Robot. We've had quite a lot of fun, with cross-curricular skills in Table-Tennis-Cricket, and inventing the 'sport' of Table-Tennis-Volleyball (both of which seem to mostly involve hitting the ball quite hard and shouting!)

AMM



TENNIS



This was a successful season of tennis, which saw the players benefitting from the continued links with Prestbury Tennis Club and Star Coaching. There were Saturday fixtures in various formats (timed, singles and doubles) versus Stockport GS, Withington, The Grange and MGS.

This season also saw entry into the LTA Youth Schools Competition (Division 2), which provided some incredibly testing matches and allowed our players to travel across the region. Both our U13 and U15 boys' teams were involved in the tensest of matches against Lymm High School. Charlie Okell, Fred Finnie, Will Forbes and Xander Vipond pushed all four of their older, more experienced opponents on every single point and will be a force to be reckoned with in the 'top of the age-grouping' next summer.

Even the bad summer weather could not stop our talented U15 girls from romping toward winning the league. Lucy Atkinson (#1 seed) was unstoppable in all her matches and was very well supported by Elena Curat, Imogen Nugent, Mia Lamb and Olivia Morris. This meant a semi-final versus Priestnall School and, despite some very competitive tennis and several sets going all the way to a nail-biting 'shoot-out', the girls came unstuck at the last four.

Annabel Wong has once again dominated the club circuit, winning two Women's Singles Regional Tour titles and reaching the semi-finals in both singles and doubles at her first ITF Junior Tournament (International Tennis Federation) in Edinburgh.

GJHH

TRAMPOLINING



The North West Trampoline Championships held at Robin Park in Wigan were a resounding success for King's, with 16 teams competing.

Twelve of our teams impressively secured 1st place and three more achieved 2nd place, qualifying for the North of Britain Zonal Championships. Congratulations to the individual North West champions: Tilly Fox, James Heald, Otis Hughes, Emily Burton, Bailey Denham and Kaan Kafescioglu.

Our boys' novice teams dominated, with the 1-6 Boys Novice Team and Year 7-8 Boys Novice Team placing 1st, including standout performances from Bailey Denham and Kaan Kafescioglu, who also claimed 1st in their respective categories. The Year 11-14 Girls Novice Team A, led by Emily Burton, also secured 1st place, along with several other novice and intermediate teams.

In the North of Britain Zonals in Wakefield, 15 of our teams competed, with 11 teams and 17 individuals qualifying for the National Finals in Telford. Special recognition goes to Tilly

Fox and Emily Burton, who emerged as North of Britain champions. Our teams' outstanding politeness and sportsmanship were noted by officials, further enhancing the school's reputation.

The National Schools Trampoline Finals were an extraordinary success for King's: we secured four National team championships and five runner-up positions.

Highlights include our Year 1-6 Novice team, featuring Gracie Russell and Sophia Shaw, becoming National Champions, along with the Year 7-9 Intermediate Girls Team, led by Tilly Fox, and the Year 10-14 Intermediate Boys Team, anchored by Otis Hughes. The Year 9-10 Boys Novice Team, with Kaan Kafescioglu leading, also secured a national title.

A special mention goes to our Year 13 competitors, Lottie Clark, Leah Shadwell, Alice Jordan and Otis Hughes, for their decade-long contributions, finishing their school trampolining careers on a high.

RB



Hail & FAREWELL

Hail &
FAREWELL

During the year, we welcomed a number of new members of staff and also said farewell to others who headed off to pastures new or retired.

HAIL

Victoria Aitchison

Victoria, our new Head of Early Years, began her career as a Reception and Key Stage One Teacher in the state sector before relocating to Edinburgh. There, she made significant contributions as the Head of Early Years at Scotland's first prep-school, Cargilfield Prep, for eight years. In 2022, she moved back to Cheshire to be closer to family, taking on roles at Bowdon as a Reception Class teacher, a member of the marketing team, and the school-parent liaison. This academic year, Victoria has joined King's as the Head of Early Years and Foundation Stage, bringing her extensive experience and passion for early childhood education. Her daughter, Florence, has also joined the King's community.

Richard Gaskell

Richard joined King's in March 2024 as Estates Manager after spending 18 years in a similar role at Hulme Grammar School in Oldham. Richard finished his degree in Construction and Project Management at Huddersfield University with First Class Honours and the Chancellors Award for outstanding achievement. Prior to this Richard lived and worked overseas for over 20 years. Based out of Cyprus, Richard worked as a Project Manager on telecoms installations in Europe and Asia.

He also worked as a Facilities Manager for The Australian Government looking after High Commissions, Chanceries and Diplomatic residences in Asia. Richard lives in Saddleworth with his partner Victoria, the three youngest of seven children, and Rocky the Staffie cross. In their spare time Richard and Vicky spend time with family and friends and host regular BBQs. They enjoy running and going to the gym, love to travel, and music plays a big part in family life with concerts and festivals being a regular occurrence.

Georgina Miller

Georgina joined King's as Learning Support Assistant and previously worked as a Business Development Manager at law firm Addleshaw Goddard in London for eight years, before transferring up to Cheshire when she had a young family. During her maternity leave she taught herself Modern Calligraphy and set up her own calligraphy business, working for brands such as Jo Malone. Prior to working, Georgina studied Psychology at Durham University. In her free time, Georgina loves to play tennis and is training for her first Hyrox competition this year.

Nadia Krause

Nadia joined King's in September 2023 within the Infant and Junior Division as a Wraparound Care

Assistant. Originally from Canada, she lived in Vienna for five years before moving to the UK for university. She supports Year 5 during the day, the afterschool club in the evening and the occasional holiday club throughout the year. Her background is in Education and International Development, achieving a BA (Hons) in Education Studies from the University of Reading and a MSc in International Development, Social Justice and Sustainability from the University of Bath. Outside of work, she enjoys doing yoga, reading and travelling.

Marlen Blass

Marlen is the new German Foreign Language Assistant. Born and raised in Frankfurt (Oder), which lies directly on the border with Poland and is near Berlin, she completed a social and cultural studies program at the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt. Her study of and love and passion for foreign languages took her to Manchester, a city that she calls 'Heimat' now and eventually to King's School, where she is aiming to make a great contribution to helping our students successfully complete their German studies in support of their academic and professional careers. Outside work, she is a mother to Elva, who has yet to discover her love for German grammar and the definite articles 'der, die, das', believe it or not.

Chloe Deva

Chloe joined the Drama Department as Head of Drama. Previously Chloe was a Drama teacher and resident tutor at Oakham School and then moved to be a Housemaster and Head of Academic Drama at Wellington College International Shanghai. Chloe graduated from Queen Mary's University London with a BA (Hons) in Drama with Performance and completed her PGCE with Lancaster University. In her free time Chloe enjoys travelling, going to the theatre and running - having completed the Great Wall of China half marathon (twice) she now has her sights firmly set on her first ever marathon by the end of this year.

Eleanor Kirkham

Eleanor joined King's in July 2023 as a Wrap Around Care Assistant. She is helping out with the Year 3s, attending to all junior breaktimes, helping out in After School club and even all of the Holiday Clubs. Her previous job role was working as a Flight Attendant for one of the UK's most successful airlines. Outside of work, she loves to go to the gym, go out for coffee and see her family and friends as much as possible.

Ramzi Darwazeh

Ramzi joined the History Department in 2023. Prior to King's, Ramzi taught at Cheadle Hulme School and in schools in Berlin (Germany), Amman (Jordan) and Fort St John (Canada). He graduated from the University of British Columbia with a first-class BA in History and First Nations Studies.

Jake Lucas-Nolan

Jake re-joined King's English Department in 2023. He began his journey as an English teacher at King's, training and securing his first teaching position at the old Cumberland Street site in 2016, where he worked for 2.5 years. After leaving King's, he taught at Cheadle Hulme High School and then at Bolton Boys' School, gaining valuable experience at each institution.

Laura Dean

Laura became a member of the Infant and Junior Division in September 2023. Prior to this, she was a Year 5 teacher at Oldham Hulme Grammar School. Before moving up to Manchester, Laura lived in South West London, where she taught in Year 1 and Year 3. Out of school, Laura enjoys spending quality time with her husband, travelling, and staying active.

Michelle Palmer

Michelle started at King's in January 2024, as an EAA assessor and specialist teacher. She has previously been a qualified SENDCO and a teacher of health and social care. She has 20 years' experience in secondary education and teaching. In her spare time, she likes to take long walks, read novels and go swimming. She is also very busy with family life and raising two children.

Sarah Forster

Sarah has been teaching Art for 21 years. She studied Ceramics at Camberwell College of Arts before becoming a teacher and is enjoying the ceramic opportunities here at King's. She has taught in Cheshire schools during her teaching career

and is very happy to now be at such a fantastic school here in Macclesfield. As well as teaching in schools she has been part of the Cheshire Art teaching for GCSE at the Conway Centre and has been to Italy a number of times with Cheshire Art in Tuscany. Outside of school, she is a keen gardener and likes to spend her time planning and planting.

FAREWELL

Becky Thomas

Becky has been an integral part of King's Business & Economics Department and soup club since she joined in 2022 to teach Business. Becky has been a dedicated and inspiring teacher, and a vibrant presence in our extra-curricular activities. She enthusiastically contributed to our Equestrian Club and played a key role in organizing and attending memorable trips, including our adventures to San Francisco, JCB, The Blue Planet and Alton Towers not to mention getting lost on DofE and bringing home a couple of ticks as a result. Becky's passion, commitment and energy have left a lasting impact on both students and colleagues alike.

Nicola Garside

Nicola joined King's in 2013 working initially in the Girls' Division and more recently in the Learning Support Department as an Exam Access Assessor and teacher. Her dedication and commitment to the students accessing Learning Support has been invaluable.

Through her early morning intervention sessions, she has boosted students' confidence, not to mention their results. Her calm manner and pupil-centred teaching style meant that her students were always happy to come and see her, even at 8am! Nicola will be sorely missed. We wish her a future filled with joy, relaxation, and endless adventures.

Sarah Holliday

Sarah has worked tirelessly as the Exams' Officer for the past nine years. Her organisation skills and unflappable demeanour ensure that exam seasons have consistently operated smoothly for hundreds of King's students. Sarah worked closely with the Learning Support Department, as well as managing a team of invigilators; if this wasn't enough to keep her busy, she was also the administrator for the Music department. Family orientated; Sarah is moving to Yorkshire to be closer to her loved ones. We wish her the very best on her new Yorkshire adventure!

Will Kelly

Will joined the History and Politics Department in the depths of (dare we say it) the Covid-19 pandemic. He arrived at the school with a strong degree in both History and Politics from Manchester University, two years teaching experience and a life-long commitment to Manchester United FC! Will has been the History and Politics Department's Challenge and Enrichment representative and created tasks for the Year 7 Learning Challenge. Throughout his time at King's, Will has been committed to

developing his teaching and pastoral practice. He has been an excellent form tutor and, beyond the classroom, Will has run a very popular football club, alongside Mr. O'Donnell and dedicated many Saturdays to rugby assisting the Under 12B squad, providing encouragement and support throughout the season. Will is taking up a new post at Harrow International School in Bangalore, India. We wish him the very best for this exciting new chapter.

Ian Pauksztello

Ian will be taking on the role of Head of Spanish at Cheadle Hulme School, after a successful year with us, as acting Head of Spanish. His journey with us has been marked by dedication, innovation and a profound commitment to language education. Ian began his illustrious career with a BA Joint Honours degree in French and Spanish, at the University of Leeds. Before completing a PGCE in Modern Languages, he worked in industry, where he used his languages to interact with native customers and suppliers, building successful and fruitful client relationships. Ian joined us in 2019. During his time at our school, Ian has been an exceptional teacher, delivering engaging French and Spanish lessons from KS2 to KS5. His dedication to the House system as Assistant Head of House was much appreciated by all. His leadership of the Language Leaders programme with Year 10 students has empowered many young learners to take on teaching roles themselves, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of languages. We wish him all the best.

Andrew Leonard

Andrew, affectionately known as Lenny, started his illustrious career at King's over three decades ago in 1988. Following in the footsteps of his dad in green keeping and groundsman'ship, Lenny became a reliable colleague with excellent knowledge within the department. Although a reserved individual, his banter with those closest to him was often legendary (never let that miserable exterior fool you). It was well known Lenny was looking forward to his well-earned retirement so he could spend more time with his better half, Rowena. Plans of trips around the world already mapped out and truly deserved. Joking aside, Lenny was a well-loved member of the team and will be dearly missed. Here's to many years of happy retirement.

Matt Ward

Matt is leaving to take up the post of second in Department for Computing at Tytherington High School. During his 15 years at King's, Matt has taken part in numerous school trips, being a very effective Head of House for Tatton, previously, a Head of Year, running the increasingly popular Tae Kwon Do club and being a well-loved Computer Science teacher. Matt started his career at King's in Cumberland Street, where he used to cross site on his motorbike on a regular basis. His teaching room was M10 and located inside M10 was Matt's office, known as the "Command Shed". Since moving across to the new site, Matt's achievements have included putting on stellar productions as Head of House for the Christmas Song Competition,

dressed as a Christmas Elf and Wee Willy Winky – thankfully on different years, taking part in the '100 push ups a day' challenge in November, drinking copious amounts of coffee and somehow always being at the front of the staff lunch queue! It is fair to say that the vast majority of students will miss being taught by Mr Ward. We wish Matt all the best in his new role.

Jenny Dunn

Jenny is leaving King's after 11 busy and successful years. Jenny leaves us to take on a PE teaching and Department Leadership role at Fallibroome Academy. In her role as Head of Academic PE at King's, Jenny has been responsible for the considerable growth and development of GCSE PE and the successful introduction of BTEC Sport in Sixth Form. Jenny has helped to raise the profile of girls' sport and level up the opportunities available across the Foundation.

Jenny was highly valued form tutor for a number of years, and she led the girls' hockey and netball tour to Barbados in 2014, as well as supporting the tour to Spain & Gibraltar in 2016, despite being heavily pregnant! A talented sportswoman, Jenny's competitive instincts are never too far below the surface, even on a Department night out! In April 2022, Jenny was installed on the Middlesex Women's Hall of Fame Honours Board at Lord's Cricket Ground. No surprise then that she should have been fully behind the introduction and development of girls' cricket at King's, which has been ushered in by Head of Cricket Steve Moores. Jenny has inspired many, helped to raise standards and broaden opportunities, and she

has encouraged a love of sport and lifelong participation. She will be greatly missed.

Kate Easby

Kate re-joined the Latin Department in 2020. Kate took up Latin relatively late in life after she fell in love with the subject, and previously worked at King's. After she left King's for the first time, she went to Rome to teach English as a foreign language. When she returned to England, she taught at Withington Girls' School for a few years, before coming back to King's. Kate has taught all across the Senior School since moving to the new site, showing great enthusiasm for her subject. She also took part when the Latin Department changed to teaching the more modern Eduqas GCSE – her class was the first cohort to take that exam this summer. Kate has run Classics Club for the last two years, and the students will be very sad to see it and her go. Kate will be joining Stockport Grammar School and we will all miss her very much.

Emi Tamai

Emi arrived at King's in 2018, taking over the Japanese teaching and extra-curricular work from Atsuko Koido. She quickly established herself as a dynamic, hardworking and engaging teacher of Japanese and enthusiast for her land and culture. Her students have been unanimous in praising her excellent teaching and the tireless hard work she put into developing the study of Japanese at King's – not only with the Sixth Formers, but also with extra-curricular clubs in the Senior and Junior Divisions. Her work involved not only the language, but cuisine, calligraphy and origami.

She also fostered relationships with the cultural Japanese organisations, culminating with the ceremonial planting of a Sakura cherry tree in celebration of this. We wish her well in the next stage of her career.

John Percival

John has been at King's both as a boy and man; he is quite simply a living legend of The King's School. John attended King's from 1977 to 1984 before reading Environmental Science at Aberystwyth University and, after a brief stint teaching at St Bede's College in Manchester, has been teaching Geography here since 1992!

Both his sons, Daniel and Jake, attended King's, in addition to his wife Paula working here for many years. Even his name, John Percival, is clearly a derivative of our founder, John Percyvale from way back in the 1400s – clearly, it was quite simply his destiny that he would spend a good deal of his life here! John has always been and still is a pupil favourite, his forthright but caring and dedicated manner appealing to all.

He has taught many generations and relatives from the same families, including parents and their children right up to A Level! His physical geography knowledge is immense and he can also always be relied upon with his encyclopedic knowledge of the local geography of the Macclesfield area. John has taken a leading role in our inter-form House system, regularly playing Santa and running endless numbers of competitions.

Moreover, another of his great legacies is his contribution to Rugby, spending 25 years coaching the 1st XV, 2nd XV, U16s and U15s and more recently being a forwards coach. Drawing much from his own battle hardened and competitive playing career to inspire and support countless number of boys taking to the field. He has joined numerous overseas tours to Australia, Canada twice – still recounting his epic milk shake in the cosmopolitan hotbed that is Saskatchewan – and South Africa, where his two sons also attended, to make it a truly special tour.

John will also be fondly remembered for raising considerable sums of money for men's health and being the bastion of the famous 'alternative route', a pre-Christmas ramble around Macclesfield drinking establishments, not to mention his rambling, but most entertaining email call to arms for his fellow contrarians. John will be sorely missed.

Susanne Jenkinson

Susanne joined King's in 2022 from Altrincham Academy. She contributed greatly to the Physics Department running the Astronomy Club and being a member of the teaching and learning group. She was also a key member of the Brass Ensemble playing her euphonium. She supported the trombone section who also studied A-level Physics and inspired some of them to study Physics at University. She acted as a great role model and took students to events such as

the Women in Control at Sheffield University that aimed to explain engineering careers to female students. We wish her every success in her new career.

Debi King

Debi joined us to work initially in the Main Office before becoming the Deputy Heads' secretary in 2013. It is fair to say, in that time she became a lynchpin of school operations: calendar, trips, staff cover, room changes, inspection documentation. She had an incredible work ethic and eye for detail and has been an incredible servant of the school. We wish her every happiness in her (long overdue!) retirement knowing that the chances of her 'taking it easy' are practically zero.

Jez Nicholls

Jez has given a remarkable 22 years' service to King's, first as a teacher of and latterly as Head of Design Technology for a number of years. Under his leadership the department has thrived and developed; the exhibition of pupil coursework was always an academic highlight and pupils taking DT always received a great level of personal care. As well as this, he has also been a form tutor, a very keen and committed member of the staff outdoor pursuits and DofE team and the Health and Safety Officer. Fire alarms and staff H&S training will not be the same again. We wish Jez a very happy and long retirement.

Phill McKenzie

Phill joined King's as Head of Computing in 2018 and immediately set about developing the department. During his time here, numbers at A Level have significantly increased as they have at GCSE and we have also introduced a new GCSE subject, Creative i-media. This increased popularity was partly because of the range of events and competitions he entered pupils for such as the BIMA Challenge where pupils regularly finished in top positions. Trips to Alton Towers and San Francisco also boosted the department's profile and gave some amazing experiences to the students. We wish Phill success in his move to The Grange.

Julia Fletcher

Julia made a huge impact at a time when the Learning Support department was growing and changing. A consummate professional and a real expert in her field, her calm and empathetic manner with parents always managed to reassure them that they were in expert hands – and they were. She also had a real vision for the Learning Support department and had gone some way towards realising it. Julia left us at Christmas to go back to teaching, her first love, and the Learning Support mantle has gone to Nicky Coonan as her successor.

Jonathan Spencer Pickup

Jonathan has retired after serving as Director of Finance for 20 years. A former King's pupil, Jonathan left King's in 1982 to study Mechanical Engineering at Imperial College, London.

After qualifying as a chartered accountant with Price Waterhouse, he worked in corporate finance in the City with Charterhouse Bank for 5 years. Jonathan then returned to live in Macclesfield working for Norweb and United Utilities before being headhunted by civil engineers John Kennedy, experience that would prove to be vital during King's relocation to the current campus.

It was when he became a member of King's Former Pupils' Association that he was first asked to look at the school's financial structure, and so impressive was his analysis that the school's then bankers NatWest, recommended he be appointed Finance Director in 2004.

After boosting the school's financial position partly by building a new Sixth Form Centre that helped to increase the school roll up to a record 1502 pupils, Jonathan then helped navigate stormy waters created by the financial crash of 2008/09.

Jonathan and former head, Dr Simon Hyde, worked together on the '2020 Vision' to re-unite the school on a single purpose-built campus. 11 years later, the dream was realised and the new School campus opened in September 2020 – with Jonathan front and centre of the design, planning and



build phases. The school owes Jonathan an enormous debt of gratitude for his commitment over such a long period. We will all miss his wise counsel, camaraderie and dedication to King's.



The school owes Jonathan an enormous debt of gratitude for his commitment over such a long period



Awards & PRIZES

2023/24



Special Prizes

Head of Foundation's Prize, Mathematics Single Prize & Biology Prize	Madeleine Baxter
Head of Foundation's & Physics Prize	Aaryaa Premanand
Principal's Award	Thomas Danson
Principal's Award, Mick Brown Good Egg Award & Geography Prize	Georgiana Sanders
Principal's Award	Lotta Tully
Principal's Award	Evan Williams

Senior School Prizes (all age groups)

Sainter Prize (<i>scientific research</i>)	Vismaya Aji
Maimi Wright Computing Prize	Asher Raymon
Ben Davies Poetry Prize	Rebecca Doyle
Dr Norman Maurice Arclex Prize	Francesco Roncaroli
Ridac Cup for an Outstanding Sporting Performance	Frank Shanahan on behalf of the U14 Rugby Team
Selwyn Russell Jones Sports Prize, Best All Rounder in Sports & Alan Cooper Prize	Lydia Hine
Thornber Chemistry Development Prize	Shabd Shrivastava
Marcall-Costello Award for Endeavour in German	Beatrice Medcalf
Ken Brookfield Elizabethan Prize, French (William Broster) & Sixth Form French Linguistic & Cultural Prize	Eleanor Shaw
I A Wilson Economics Prize	Charles Saunders
Alex Anderson Memorial Quaich	Julian O'Neil
David Pook Poetry	Elissa Petterson
Senior Division Robert Batchelor Prize	Margot Ridley
Senior Division Robert Batchelor Prize	Dominic Howells

Retiring Prizes

John Percival Excellence in Lower School Geography & Lower School Reading Prize	Alice Burton
Jeremy Nichols Outstanding Contribution to D&T	Finlay Buckley
Jonathan Spencer Pickup	Joseph Moores

Bano Endeavour Awards

Year 13 Bano Endeavour Award	Junior Byuzura
Year 12 Bano Endeavour Award	Sophie Clegg
Year 11 Bano Endeavour Award	Archie Robinson
Year 10 Bano Endeavour Award	Beatrice Stockwood
Year 9 Bano Endeavour Award	Rosie Gyurkovits
Year 8 Bano Endeavour Award	Harry Kaye
Year 7 Bano Endeavour Award	Craig Hallinan

* Thank you to **Khan Mather Solicitors** for the donation of the Bano Endeavour Awards

Former Pupils' Association Prizes

Alan Cooper Prize & Senior Division Council Cup	Jobin Joseph
TT Shaw Sixth Form & Extended Studies (T B Cartwright) Prizes	Fred Riordan
TT Shaw Senior Division Prize	Ebony Gaddum
Adrian Silcock Sixth Form Prize, Mathematics: Double & Ron Darlington Jazz Prize	Jenny Wallace
Adrian Silcock Senior Division Prize	Skye Thomas-Nicholson

Infant & Junior Division Special Prizes

Robert Batchelor Prize	Sophie Evans
Robert Batchelor Prize	Jack Grace
Infant & Junior Division Enquiry Winner	Edward Mardsen Smith
Infant & Junior Division Enquiry - Highly Commended	Margo Hrebinchyk
Infant & Junior Division Enquiry - Highly Commended	Noah Turner

Sixth Form Prizes

Art (Selwyn Russell Jones) Prize	Anna Moorhouse
Business Studies Prize	Alice Baxendell
Design & Technology Prize	Lily Poulton
Chemistry	Rufus Simpson
Classics (Wilmot), Theatre Arts Prizes & Extended Project Qualification	Imogen Vernon
Economics (Canon F W Paul) Prize	Araminta Kight
English Language Prize	Gabby McIntyre
English Literature Prize, Psychology & Sixth Form Choral Prize, Geography Prize,	Sophie Heslip
German (J O Nicholson) Prize	Aimee Venables
History (C A Bradley) Prize	Emily Ancell
History Prize	Poppy Robinson
Music & Sixth Form Orchestral Prize	Dylan Eldershaw
Physical Education Prize	Freddie Griffiths
Politics Prize	Benjamin Martin
Religious Studies (Thorneycroft)	Solomon Lever
Senior Reading Prize	Kate Hartnett
Simon Schuler Computing Prize	Fraser Day
Spanish Prize	Harrison Court

Senior Division Prizes

School Captain's, Anne Craig French, German & Middle School Orchestral Prizes	William Gandy
School Captain's & Theatre Arts Prizes	Phoebe Harrison
Principal's Prize	Phoebe Woods
Deryck Siddall Cup	Christian Smith
Best All-Rounder Cup & 11JN Form Prize	Francesca Moss-Seymour

Senior Division Prizes (*continued*)

Macclesfield Grammar School Challenge Cup	Emily Macdonald
Year 7 Achiever's Cup	Maia Okoro
Year 8 Achiever's Cup	Naina Vasireddy
Year 9 Achiever's Cup & Year 9 Aspire Project	Charlotte Baxter
Year 10 Challenge Cup & Jenny Lee Mathematics Prize	Adeline An
Macclesfield High School Susan Russell Jones Cup for German	Hannah Ross
Macclesfield High School Isobel Day Cup for French & Dual Science Prize	Fergus Bark-Jones
Jenny Lee Mathematics Prize	Robb Thomas
Sue Bream Crystal Star	Farrah Phillips
Year 7 General Science Prize	Jacob Mooney
Year 8 General Science Prize	Joseph Stewart
Art & Design Prize	Coimhe Durkin
Biology Prize	Sharlet Kong
Chemistry & Latin Prizes	Oliver Gotts
Design & Technology, 11SHJ Form Prizes	Charlotte Hanley
English Prize	Martha Reaney
GCSE Physical Education Prize	Simon Shadwell
Geography Prize	Neave Stanway
History Prize	Chinmaya Aji
Religious Studies (Thorneycroft)	Poppy Fletcher
Spanish Prize	Kieran Schwartz
Lower School Choral & gRCO Form Prizes	Brianna Gargoles
Lower School Orchestral Prize	Harriet Bright
Middle School Choral Prize	Ophelia Sherry
Music Prize	Lorcan Pfister

Form Prizes

Middle School

Year 11

11RAA	Adrian Bagherpour
11MEH	Finlay Gordon
1LAS	Edie Milner
11SHW	Abdullah Atif

Year 10

10CLD	Joseph Wallen
10GJH	Olivia Bray
10RAR	Lydia Wharfe
10GSR	Camilla Wild
10JWW	Chloe Green
10PW	Emily Allmand-Smith

Year 9

9HBA	Frank Shanahan
9TSJ	Mason Byrom
9JSM	Charlotte Grant
9VJS	Isabel Challinor
9JSS	Daisy Whittington
9CED	Brodie Clarke
Year 9 Thorneycroft Religious Studies Prize	Nancy Napier

Lower School

Year 8

8KB	Wesley Green
8GAC	Benjamin Foxon
8SAH	Penelope O'Brien
8JLN	Zachary Thompson
8IP	Ruby O'Neill
8SLW	Harry Weston
Year 8 Thorneycroft Religious Studies Prize	Lucy Bridgewater

Year 7

7KFB	Angelica MacEnroe
7MED	Matilda Fox
7WJK	Sophie O'Connell
7ARP	Harry Price
7ESc	Aleena Hansraj
7GBS	Alice Kelly
Year 7 Thorneycroft Religious Studies Prize	Amy Tarplee

A Level results

We celebrate the results of all Year 13 pupils who took external examinations:

Vismaya Aji
Leo Allen
Emily Ancell
Lucy Bambrook
George Barratt
Alice Baxendell
Madeleine Baxter
Francis Bennett
Alexander Bird
James Brady
Kaylee Brierley
Annabelle Bygrave
Junior Byuzura
Oliver Carter
James Chamberlain
Mandy Chen
Benjamin Chong
Charlotte Clark
Henrietta Clay
Thomas Clennell
Jack Cookson
Harrison Court
Emily Currie
Thomas Danson
Fraser Day
Rebecca Doyle
Christopher Drake
James Dudley
Dylan Eldershaw
Oliver Farrer
Sophie Fletcher
Henry Fraser
Reuben Frodsham
Philip Goodfellow
India Grainger-Hulme
Freddie Griffiths
Zohair Habib
James Hartley
Kate Hartnett
Sophie Heslip
Lydia Hine
Cicely Homer
Otis Hughes
Freddie James
Oliver Jennings

Saira Jerath
Sophie Johnson
Alastair Johnston
Max Jones
Oliver Jones
Alice Jordan
Jemima Jordan
Sophie Kaye
Yuvan Keyan
Araminta Kight
Nithida Langhorn-Neillans
Solomon Lever
Robert Mack
Joshua Makin
Benjamin Martin
Oliver Mathews
John McDermott
Finley McElroy
Gabby McIntyre
Holly McLellan
Anna Moorhouse
Henri More
Archie Offer
Sofia Ogden
Januchi Onunekwu
Munachi Onunekwu
Samuel Paddon
Raphael Pfister
Lily Poulton
Aaryaa Premanand
Oliver Price-Williams
Edward Reynolds
Frederick Riordan
Poppy Robinson
Adriana Rodriguez Martinez
Francesco Roncaroli
Georgiana Sanders
Oliver Sapey
Leah Shadwell
Ria Sharma
Eleanor Shaw
Benjamin Shone
Shabd Shrivastava
Rufus Simpson
Annie Smedley

Christian Tattum
Phoebe Thomson
Penny Tomlinson
Lotta Tully
Dylan Tyrrell
Aimee Venables
Imogen Vernon
Jennifer Wallace
Iona Whaley
Koby Wilkinson
Evan Williams
Benjamin Willock
Toby Wilson
Noah Wolstenholme
Grace Woolnough
Zachary Wright



This list includes
22 pupils who received at
least **3 A* / A grades**.

92% of students will attend
their first choice university.

62% of students will attend
Russell Group universities.

Music Examinations



Autumn Term 2023

ABRSM

Seniors

Name	Instrument	Grade	Result
Maryam Atif	Piano	3	Merit
Liv Byrne	Bassoon	2	Pass
Alex Cooper	Singing	5	Distinction
Emily Danby	Alto Saxophone	6	Distinction
Fraser Day	Trombone	8	Pass
Christopher Drake	Trombone	5	Pass
Dylan Eldershaw	Piano	6	Distinction
Dylan Eldershaw	Violin	8	Distinction
Fred Finnie	Piano	3	Pass
Daisy Franks	Singing for Musical Theatre	2	Distinction
Craig Hallinan	Piano	2	Pass
Aaliyah Hammad	Cornet	5	Pass
Joe Joseph	Guitar	3	Pass
Ariyan Nassab	Piano	2	Pass
Penelope O'Brien	Piano	2	Merit
Lorcan Pfister	Baritone	5	Distinction
Hattie Strong	Piano	Initial	Merit
Jenny Wallace	Trombone	8	Merit

Juniors

Name	Instrument	Grade	Result
Grace Battersby	Piano	Initial	Merit
Connie Brentnall	Cornet	3	Distinction
Annabella Flaherty	Piano	1	Merit
Oscar Garner	Trumpet	1	Merit
Ava Greenway	Piano	Initial	Distinction
Alice Hodgson	Singing	1	Pass
Iona Kelly	Piano	Initial	Merit
Mia Labrosse	Piano	1	Merit
Edward Marsden-Smith	Trumpet	3	Distinction
Eva Snowden	Piano	Initial	Pass
Lily-Grace Thornhill	Clarinet	1	Merit

Spring Term 2024

ABRSM

Seniors

Name	Instrument	Grade	Result
Lucy Atkinson	Flute	8	Pass
Sophia de Sousa	Singing for Musical Theatre	4	Pass
Matisse Densem	Singing	3	Pass
Roslyn Hartnett	Guitar	1	Merit
Jacob Mooney	Singing	2	Merit
James Murphy	Singing for Musical Theatre	1	Merit
Penelope O'Brien	Flute	5	Pass
Maia Okoro	Piano	3	Pass
Lacey Quinn	Alto Saxophone	4	Pass
Raphael Sherry	Piano	3	Merit
James Strong	Piano	2	Pass
Amy Tarplee	Flute	2	Pass
Daisy Whittington	Piano	3	Pass

Juniors

Name	Instrument	Grade	Result
Ava Greenway	Piano	1	Distinction
Alice Hodgson	Piano	Initial	Distinction
Camilla Kinsey	Singing	2	Pass
Thomas Lloyd	Piano	Initial	Pass



Summer Term 2024

ABRSM

Seniors

Name	Instrument	Grade	Result
Adeline An	Violin	7	Merit
Harriet Bright	Piano	8	Distinction
Harriet Bright	Clarinet	8	Distinction
Liv Byrne	Piano	3	Pass
Jessica Cook	Piano	3	Pass
Rory Craik-White	Singing	1	Merit
Isabelle Dugdale	Piano	3	Merit
Duru Erakalin	Piano	4	Merit
Oliver Fineberg	Piano	Initial	Distinction
Ben Foxon	Tenor Saxophone	1	Merit
Winston Fung	Trombone	1	Distinction
Brianna Gargoles	Flute	3	Pass
Craig Hallinan	Trumpet	1	Merit
Holly Loftus	Piano	3	Pass
Joseph MacKenzie	Piano	3	Merit
Rohan McCleery	Piano	2	Merit
Apolonia Olpinski	Clarinet	2	Merit
Amy Tarplee	Piano	1	Merit
Emily Wood	Piano	1	Pass

Juniors

Name	Instrument	Grade	Result
Sebastian Allnatt	Piano	Initial	Merit
Connie Brentnall	B Flat Cornet	4	Merit
Henry Burton	Piano	2	Merit
Henry Conibere	Piano	Initial	Pass
Ted Cross	Piano	Initial	Merit
Diti Dixit	Singing for Musical Theatre	1	Merit



Juniors (continued)

Name	Instrument	Grade	Result
Jessica (Rosie) Hufton	Piano	Initial	Merit
Iona Kelly	Singing	1	Merit
Liam Labrosse	Piano	1	Distinction
Raymond Liddiard	Piano	1	Merit
Edward Marsden-Smith	Piano	4	Distinction
Ted Myers	Oboe	2	Merit
Elizabeth Phillips	Piano	1	Pass
Olivia Saxton	Alto Saxophone	1	Distinction
Libby Thornton	Piano	Initial	Distinction

Trinity College London

Seniors

Name	Instrument	Grade	Result
Annie Batt	Trumpet	6	Distinction
Sophie Heslip	Singing	8	Distinction
Luke Mooney	Keyboard	Initial	Distinction
Michaela Quinn	Flute	6	Pass
Gabriel Wade	Keyboard	1	Distinction

Trinity Rock and Pop

Seniors

Name	Instrument	Grade	Result
Beatrix Medcalf	Singing	5	Merit
Samuel Rodwell	Drums	1	Merit

Juniors

Name	Instrument	Grade	Result
Raymond Liddiard	Drums	1	Merit

Leaver DESTINATIONS 2024

In 2024, **92%** of Sixth Form students achieved their first choice of university with **62%** joining Russell Group institutions. The full list of leavers' destinations is as follows:

Coventry University	Motorsport Engineering
Durham University	Natural Sciences
Durham University	Geography
Durham University	Environmental Geoscience
Lancaster University	Medicine and Surgery
Lancaster University	Theoretical Physics with Mathematics
Leeds Beckett University	International Business
Leeds Beckett University	Sport Marketing
Leeds Beckett University	Marketing Management
Leeds Beckett University	Sport Business Management
Leeds Beckett University	Business Accounting with Finance
Leeds Beckett University	Sport Marketing
London School of Economics (LSE), University of London	Management
Loughborough University	Mechanical Engineering
Manchester Metropolitan University	Computer Games Development
Manchester Metropolitan University	Sports Business Management
Newcastle University	Geography
Newcastle University	Geography & Urban Planning
Newcastle University	Marketing & Management
Newcastle University	Combined Honours
Newcastle University	English Literature
Newcastle University	Politics & International Relations
Newcastle University	Chemical Engineering
Newcastle University	Biology
Northumbria University	Business & Marketing
Northumbria University	Automotive Engineering
Nottingham Trent University	Construction Management
Oxford Brookes University	Real Estate
Oxford Brookes University	Business & Management
Oxford Brookes University	Media, Journalism & Publishing
Oxford Brookes University	Economics, Finance & International Business
Queen Mary University of London	International Relations
Sheffield Hallam University	Building Surveying
University Academy 92 (UA92)	Business Management
University of Bath	Chemical Engineering
University of Bath	Natural Sciences
University of Birmingham	Pharmacy
University of Bristol	English
University of Bristol	Economics & Management
University of Bristol	Biochemistry
University of East Anglia UEA	Pharmacy with a Preparatory Year

University of Edinburgh	Architecture
University of Edinburgh	Economics
University of Edinburgh	French & Politics
University of Exeter	Sport & Exercise Medical Sciences
University of Exeter	Economics
University of Exeter	Anthropology
University of Exeter	Finance: Investment Banking with Industrial Experience
University of Leeds	Law
University of Leeds	Business Economics
University of Leeds	Criminal Justice & Criminology
University of Leicester	Aerospace Engineering
University of Liverpool	Business Management
University of Liverpool	Law with Philosophy
University of Liverpool	English Literature
University of Liverpool	Criminology
University of Liverpool	Psychology
University of Liverpool	Marketing
University of Liverpool	Law
University of Liverpool	Marketing
University of Manchester	Planning & Real Estate
University of Nottingham	Medicine
University of Nottingham	Natural Sciences with International Study
University of Nottingham	Aerospace Engineering
University of Nottingham	Aerospace Engineering
University of Nottingham	Modern Languages with Business
University of Nottingham	History
University of Nottingham	Ancient History
University of Oxford	History
University of Sheffield	Computer Science
University of Sheffield	Biological Sciences
University of Southampton	Aerospace Electronic Engineering with Industrial Studies
University of Sunderland	Biomedical Science
University of Sunderland	Medicine
University of Sussex	English
University of Wales Trinity Saint David	Automotive Engineering
University of Warwick	Management
University of Warwick	Philosophy & Politics
University of Warwick	Classics
University of York	Accounting, Business Finance & Management
University of York	Philosophy
University of York	Biology
University of York	Business of the Creative Industries
University of York	Computer Science
University of York	International Relations
University of York	Computer Science/Mathematics

The King's School in Macclesfield

Registered Charity: 1137204

Founded by Sir John Percyvale, Kt, by his Will dated 25 January, 1502. Re-established by Royal Charter granted by King Edward VI, 26 April, 1552.

Supplemental Royal Charter granted by Queen Elizabeth II, 11 February 2009.

Governing Body & Officers as at 31 August 2024:

Chair:

A T Higginson BSc (Hons), FCMA

Vice Chair:

Ms J White BSc (Hons), CBE

Governors:

Mr S Barriskell BSc, MBA

Mrs S Byrne, BSc

Prof N Hanley BSc (Hons), MBChB, FRCP, PhD

Mrs V Davidson, MBChB, MRCP, DFSRH

Dr C Doherty, BPharm, PhD, MBA

Ms L Grainger, MA, FCPFA

Mr H Grant, MA

Mr S Murrells, CBE

J Watkins BA (Oxon)

Governors nominated by:

The Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire

Mr A T Higginson BSc (Hons)

The University of Manchester

Mr I Bradley BSc (Hons)

Cheshire East Council

Councillor Chris O'Leary

The Rt Revd the Lord Bishop of Chester

Mr M Strutt BA

Officers

Head of Foundation:

Jason Slack BSc (Hons), MA (Ed)

Director of Finance and Clerk to the Governors:

J M Spencer Pickup BSc (Hons), ACA



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