King's 1502 Colours

The newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield

Autumn/Winter 2024

Finlay scoops **National Engineering Scholarship**

Year 12 student Finlay Buckley has been awarded a prestigious Arkwright Scholarship – one of just 200 students selected from over 2,000 applicants nationwide.

To impress a distinguished panel of judges, Finlay first completed a formal application, then sat a two-hour exam before getting selected for an interview where he had to give a presentation.

Finlay, who captains King's 2nd XI hockey team, will go to Newcastle to receive his award and meet prospective engineering company recruiters. He is currently studying A Level Design Technology, Maths, Further Maths and Chemistry and is considering an engineering career designing the next generation of aerospace engines.





Oooh la la ... pupils in Paris

Over half-term, a group of Year 10–12 linguists embarked on an unforgettable school trip to Paris, filled with culture, history and delicious food. They visited the Chateaux de Versaille, Montmartre, where the cobblestone streets were alive with artists showcasing their work, the stunning Sacré-Cœur Basilica and the Eiffel Tower, whilst fully immersing themselves in the French culture and enjoying some wonderful French cuisine.

Celebrating exam success



Character, resilience and a wide range of interests are the keys to the examination success enjoyed by pupils over the summer, according to Head Mr Slack.

GCSE pupils recorded another stunning set of results, with a superb 59% of all grades at 9 to 7 (A*/A). Mr Slack said: "We are incredibly proud of this year's students A Level and GCSE results. Their fantastic results are the outcome of a huge amount of hard work from a talented group of pupils, who have also excelled in other areas of school life."

The summer's results continue the school's sustained, upward trajectory of academic achievement.

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HEAD'S UPDATE

Part of our School ethos is to have 'learning and personal development at the heart of our community.' It was this statement that we had in mind when the School introduced its sixth 'Learning Habit' at the start of the academic year; creativity.

This development wasn't undertaken because our pupils hadn't being showing any creative skills so far – quite the opposite. Those parents that have attended a recent production, concert or art exhibition will have witnessed just how creative our children can be. The resulting 'feel-good factor' gained from the enjoyment of these events only helps to raise excitement at the forthcoming Christmas productions in the Infant and Junior Division, or the Senior Division production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* next term.



Similarly, the recent Autumn Concert had so much creativity on display from an area of school life that so clearly shows development as our next crop of musicians step up to take leadership roles in place of those pupils who moved onto pastures new in the summer.

Recognising creativity more formally does highlight the increasing significance that this attribute plays in what the School recognises as 'the character and skills necessary to meet the challenges of an ever changing world' (another part of our ethos).

Together with our other learning habits, this addition enhances the bigger picture of our holistic approach which places emphasis on a well-rounded education. The importance that creativity plays in less obvious areas such as STEM subjects, sport and personal welfare is also forming a part of our endeavours to promoting its significance.

I hope that by incorporating creativity into lessons and various assemblies, as well as our drive to raise awareness of this learning habit more broadly across the school, we will have encouraged your child to reflect on their own creativity and how this can help their development in whatever aspect of their lives they are passionate about.

Certainly, there is lots of evidence of creativity in action throughout this edition of King's Colours as well as a feature on our new Learning Habit (pages 4–5). I hope you enjoy reading about the significant achievements of our pupils.

Jason Slack
Head of Foundation



Dame Sarah inspires King's Juniors

The most successful Paralympian of all time, Dame Sarah Storey, who has clocked up 30 medals including an astonishing 19 Gold Paralympic medals, spoke to pupils about her incredible journey.

Sarah overcame bullying at school to launch an amazing sporting career, first as a swimmer and then as a cyclist, winning Paralympic titles and World Championships from the ages of 14 to 46.

Dame Sarah added to her collection this summer by winning two cycling Gold medals in Paris and further medals in the World Championships.

Talking at a Junior assembly, Dame Sarah told the pupils: "You need to be mentally resilient. You need to make a decision and then back your own decision all the way.

"However, always remember even in an individual sport, you are always a member of the team and everyone in the team is equally important. It is not just the person in the saddle or the one that scores the goals that counts: everyone has a role to play in a team and supporting roles are every bit as important."

Infant and Junior Division Principal Rachel Cookson, added: "Our pupils were spellbound as Dame Sarah gave an invaluable lesson in determination, self-belief and team-work, all key qualities we want our children to develop."





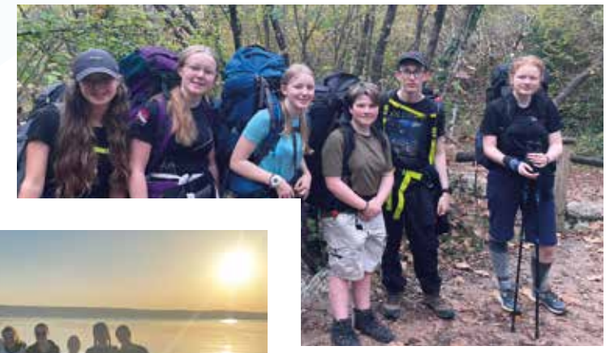
Expedition to Croatia

In October, a small team of explorers jetted off to Croatia to undertake an expedition which included mountain treks, cooling off in rivers, kayaking on inland lakes, practising camp craft skills and toasting marshmallows under the moonlight.

Pupils embraced getting back to basics and mindfully enjoying the simple things in life.

Daisy, in Year 10, said: "We all had an amazing time on the Croatia Expedition, there were so many cool and unusual activities we did.

"From rafting to kayaking, hiking to camping there were incredible new experiences each day."





National Recognition for King's

King's reached the national final of the Independent School of the Year Awards for Sporting Achievement.

It is the third time that King's has been shortlisted in the last three years, and the second time making it to the finals, previously having been nominated in the categories of Pupil Wellbeing and Educational Innovation' from over 2,000 schools nationwide.

During 2024, King's pupils claimed national accolades in several different sports: U14 rugby; U14 netball; national trampoline finals; dressage (equestrian team championships), and cricket. Head, Mr Slack, explained: "Central to our success was not just the level of achievement at elite level, but also the breadth and inclusivity of our participation."

For example, across Years 7–10, 79% of pupils have represented King's in sport and the school offers over 20 different sports. King's is also ranked in School Sports Magazine's top 25 sporting schools in the UK.

Unleashing CREATIVITY

A new focus for our School

In today's rapidly changing world, the ability to think creatively is more valuable than ever. That's why we've added 'creativity' as our sixth learning habit, alongside resilience, reasoning, reflection, questioning, and collaboration.

This exciting addition of developing creativity will help prepare our students for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead in their learning journey and in their careers.

What does 'developing creativity' mean?

Creativity isn't just about artistic talent – it's a vital skill that crosses all subjects and enables students to think, create, connect and inspire. In an educational context, developing creativity means nurturing students' ability to generate original ideas, solve problems in innovative ways, and approach challenges with fresh perspectives.

Our Deputy Head (Academic), Mr Richard Griffiths, explains: "By focusing on creativity, we're equipping our students with the tools they need to thrive in a world where adaptability and innovation are key. It's about fostering a mindset that embraces curiosity, risk-taking, and out-of-the-box thinking."

Focusing on Creativity

Across all subjects, we will be encouraging students to explore, discover, and develop their ideas through practical application. Rather than simply providing answers, we'll spark students' curiosity by encouraging them to develop their own questions and seek out solutions. In each of the Senior year groups, collaborative projects will challenge students to think creatively, combine their diverse skills and perspectives to solve complex problems imaginatively. We will help pupils see the links between different subjects, fostering creative thinking that spans traditional academic boundaries.

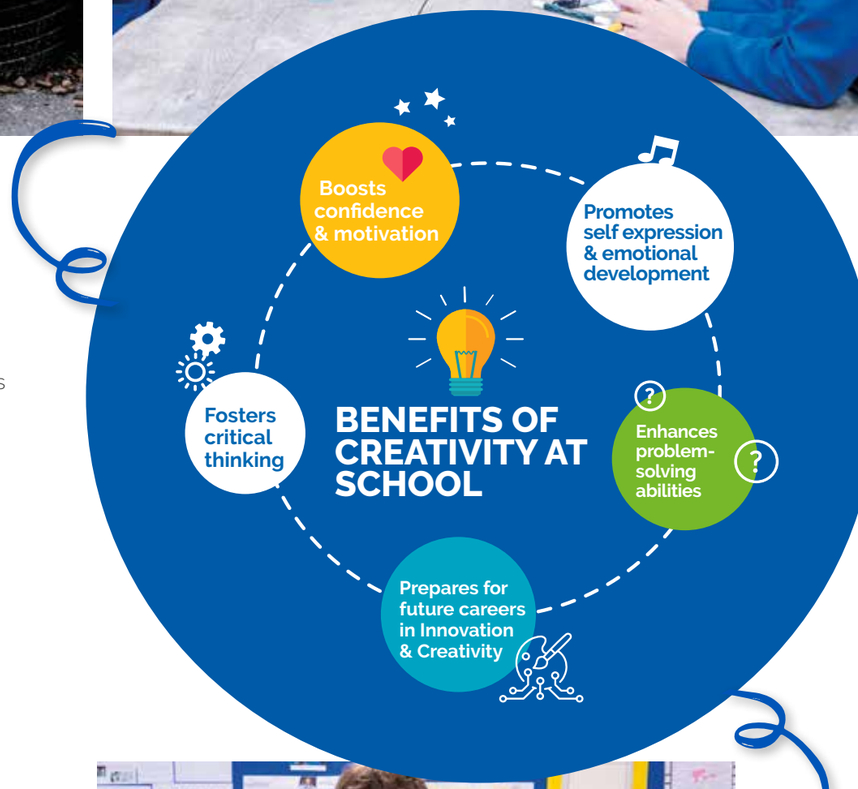
Benefits for Students

By focusing on creativity, we hope to provide pupils with a range of benefits that will positively impact their learning, personal growth and future success:

- Enhanced learning experience
- Develop stronger problem-solving and critical thinking skills
- Improve retention of information through creative engagement with subjects
- Discover new ways of understanding complex concepts
- Enhance cross-disciplinary thinking, connecting ideas from different subjects
- Become more open-minded and receptive to diverse perspectives
- Develop a growth mindset, embracing challenges as opportunities
- Cultivate curiosity and a lifelong love of learning
- Increased flexibility and adaptability
- Become more resilient in the face of change and uncertainty
- Develop the ability to change strategies when faced with obstacles
- Learn to approach problems from multiple angles
- Develop skills in generating multiple solutions to complex issues
- Enhance pupils' capacity for divergent thinking
- Preparation for future success
- Better prepare for future careers that value creative thinking and innovation
- Develop entrepreneurial skills and an innovative mindset
- Enhance ability to lead and inspire others with original ideas
- Personal growth and wellbeing
- Boost self-expression and emotional intelligence
- Increase self-awareness and self-confidence







Mr Griffiths added: "By nurturing these skills and attributes, we're not just preparing our students for exams or university admissions. We're equipping them with the tools to become adaptable, innovative leaders in their chosen fields and to navigate the complexities of an ever-changing world.

"Whether they pursue further education, enter the workforce, or embark on entrepreneurial ventures, the creative skills they develop at King's will serve as a foundation for lifelong success and personal development."

Nurturing innovative thinkers

By adding 'creativity' to our core learning habits, we are reaffirming our commitment to nurturing well-rounded, innovative thinkers able to solve problems independently.

We believe our Learning Habits, together with the other strands of our character development programme, will equip students with the skills and growth mindset they need to excel at university, in the workplace, during their careers, and life beyond.

As we find new ways of developing pupils' creativity, we look forward to seeing creative sparks fly and watching our students grow into confident and imaginative individuals ready to shape the world of tomorrow.



NETBALL



In a display of skill and determination, our U15 team clinched the County Championship title for the fourth year running. The team showcased exceptional teamwork and resilience throughout the tournament. The team were unbeaten in the pool rounds, heading into the semi-finals, playing Fallibroome Academy, with another comfortable win 12–6. The final against The Grange was a nail-biter, ending in a dramatic Golden Goal scenario. With the score tied at 7–7, Lucy Atkinson stepped up under immense pressure to score the decisive goal, securing an 8–7 victory. Congratulations to the entire team.

An amazing 10 netballers have impressed top franchise and county selectors to be called-up for representative honours.

First team Captain Bea Worlock has been selected for Nottingham Forest Netball Club U19 pathway. Minnie Farooq and Hattie Usher have both been selected for the Birmingham Panthers U19 pathway. Esme Sutton has been selected for the Cheshire U17 squad, Lottie Baxter has made the Manchester Thunder U15 squad while Lola Bianchi has been selected for the Greater Manchester U15 pathway.

Eva Sheppard is in the Cheshire U15 pathway, Faye Haines is on the Birmingham Panthers U14 pathway; Orla Nash is selected for both the Cheshire U15 academy and Manchester Thunder U13 squad, while Clara Stead, who can play in any position, is now on the Staffordshire County Pathway.

Netball Coach Phil Owen said: "This is a fantastic achievement for all the players, and represents many hours of committed training and hard work."



CRICKET

2024 was yet another fantastic year for cricket. The First XI cricketers went through the entire Saturday season unbeaten, though the early weeks were heavily impacted by poor weather.

In the T-20 Cup, the team reached the North semi-final before narrowly losing to a strong Lancaster side. The U15 boys secured the Cheshire Cup, completing four years undefeated in Cheshire Cup matches. They were however, beaten by Scarborough in the national 40-over competition, with Scarborough eventual title winners.

The U12s won the Cheshire Cup for the fourth consecutive year and completed an unbeaten season; they will represent the county in the National Knockout competition in 2025.

As Girls' cricket continues to grow at King's, we have seen more girls representing the main cricket teams and the girls' teams have performed well in their Cheshire Cup games with the U15s reaching the semi-final and the U13s the final of their Cheshire Cup. There have been outstanding performances across all the teams: Amelia Grace's 69* in the U13s final was one of the highlights of the season for any match.



The school's cricket programme continued to see many players receive county, regional, and even national recognition. Christian Smith (possibly the youngest First XI captain in the school's history), represented Cheshire EPP (Emerging Player Programme) as well as Cheshire U16s. Lewis Wheeldon also featured in the Cheshire U16s. Liam Yahathugoda had an outstanding season, playing at the North of England U15 Bunbury Festival and representing both Cheshire and Lancashire at various age groups. Alfie Usher and Leo Burns both played for Cheshire EPP and the U15 and U16 teams, while Harry Serafi was a key player for the Cheshire adult D40 team. Ben Holder, Oscar Howarth and Oliver Hodgson represented Cheshire U13s. Gabe Adamson was the Cheshire U12s' leading run-scorer, amassing over 500 runs during the season. Tom Kelly (captain) and Freddie Howarth were also integral members of the U12 team. Amelia Grace had a standout season, representing Cheshire Girls U12.

Joe Moores (*pictured above*) continued his exceptional form, representing Lancashire U18s and the North of England U18s at the Super 4s Festival. Joe also represented England U19s in the Tri-Series and has been named in the squad for the upcoming England U19 tour to South Africa.

RUGBY



In typically energetic fashion, our 12 rugby teams have already competed in around 100 matches this term. The U16 team are now deep into the County Cup competition, while our reigning National Champions (U15s) aim to defend their title, as the U14s and U16s also pursue national glory. The 1st XV have faced some challenging matches but have also secured impressive victories, including a memorable night match under the lights where they triumphed over Sandbach School, also an excellent display defeating Stonyhurst College at Derby Fields (19–0 W). In another first, the 2nd XV had their moment in the spotlight, defeating Fallibroome under the floodlights at Priory Park.

A highlight of the season was welcoming our newest recruits, the U12s (*pictured below*). They received their match jerseys from the current Year 13 pupils and even faced off against them later in the term, with Mr Slack serving as guest referee.

King's Rugby continues to earn national recognition for its excellence, and we're excited to take this on the road as our U13s embark on the inaugural U13 Edinburgh Tour, while the Senior XV will join the British & Irish Lions on their tour of Australia in the summer.



HOCKEY



It's been a busy start to the hockey season, with lots of fixtures each week. The senior sides have had a quiet start to their outdoor season, but competed strongly in the North West Indoor competitions, with the U18 girls finishing 5th, U18 boys finishing 6th and U16 boys making the semi-finals.

Both senior 1XIs begin their cup campaigns before Christmas and hope to progress well. The U16 girls are into Round 3 of the National Schools Plate after beating The Grange followed by two penalty shoot-out wins against Shrewsbury and Cheadle Hulme. The U14 girls won the Cheshire Tournament and go through to the North West Finals. The U13 girls had a successful cup run in the ISHC reaching round 4. The U12 girls have made a promising start to their King's hockey careers and remain unbeaten this term.

The boy's programme has had a quieter start, ahead of the cup games which come thick and fast before and after Christmas. The U16 and U14 sides are both progressing promisingly in the Cheshire Cup. The U13 boys have continued their success from last year and have produced several very strong performances. The U12 boys have made a strong start in their first few fixtures with big numbers attending training sessions.

Manchester Drinks



In September, around 40 former pupils and staff enjoyed our Drinks in the City event in Manchester's San Carlo.

A huge thank you to former pupil Marcello Distefano (Class of 1997) for hosting this event for us.

Remembrance Day

A poignant Remembrance Service was held on 11 November and we were delighted to welcome a number of former pupils, former members of staff and governors. Thank you to our Charity Prefects who helped to support the Royal British Legion with the sale of poppies.



Alumni DIARY DATES

- **ALUMNI CHRISTMAS LUNCH**
  Wednesday 11 December
  @ Legh Arms, Prestbury
- **ALAN MCINNES BURSARY GOLF DAY**
  Thursday 12 June
  @ Prestbury Golf Club
- **ALUMNI GALA DINNER**
  Saturday 15 November, 2025
  @ King's School

Children In Need



The King's community came together for Children In Need, raising a huge amount of money for a range of children's projects and causes around the UK. Pudsey delighted our youngest pupils by welcoming them to school in the morning, and he also visited classrooms and witnessed the busiest cake & bake sale he had ever seen!

Thank you to all parents and pupils for your support: together we raised more than £4,000.

King's Resilience



Six members of the King's community completed the Original Mountain Marathon (OMM) in October.

The OMM is considered the UK's hardest mountain marathon. Runners had to be self-reliant for their two-day journey and carry everything with them through the Scottish Highlands; a true test of resilience, mountain craft, endurance and sense of humour, which attracts the best ultra runners in the world.

Year 13 pupils Jake O'Donnell and Jake Porter covered 60km with a 3,000-metre climb over two days. Almost all of this was off path on very rough terrain. They finished in 16th place (11 hours) out of 190 teams; in 113th place were Gareth Steele and former pupil Helen Lyons, and in the 40km race, Scott Mattingly and Richard Kellett finished in 26th place (9hrs 54 minutes).

Huge congratulations to all who competed.

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Maryam Atif, Year 8, who won the U12 Chess regional Megafinal.

Adeline An, Year 11, who was awarded a Merit in ABRSM Grade 7 Violin.

Annie Batt, Year 10, who was awarded a Distinction in Trinity Grade 6 Trumpet.

Gaurav Boler (Year 11) **Robb Thomas** (Year 12) **Benjamin Anderson**, **Reuben Elliot, Annabel Hawkins, Matthew Nuttall, Daisy Webb** and **Oliver Woodward** (Year 13) for achieving Gold in the Senior Maths Challenge.

Connie Brentnall, Year 7, who was awarded a Merit in ABRSM Grade 4 B Flat Cornet.

Harriet Bright, Year 10, who was awarded Distinctions in both ABRSM Grade 8 Piano and Grade 8 Clarinet.

Henry Burton, Year 7, who was awarded a Merit in ABRSM Grade 2 Piano.

Angus Collins Webb, who won the 2024 Outstanding Pearson Learner Awards for IGCSE Mathematics after achieving the highest mark in the whole of Oceania. Angus lives in Australia, after relocating last year.

Alex Cresswell, Year 11, who has been selected for the Sale Sharks Cheshire U16s.

Harry Davies, Year 3, who won the U8 Chess Regional Megafinal in Telford.

Daisy Franks, Year 8, who was awarded Distinction for Grade 3 ABRSM Singing for Musical Theatre.

Ollie Fineberg, Year 9, was awarded Distinction for his ABRSM piano exam.

Isabelle Dugdale, Year 9, who was awarded a Merit in ABRSM Grade 2 Piano.

Duru Erakalin, Year 9, who was awarded a Merit in ABRSM Grade 4 Piano.

Oliver Gotts, Year 12, has signed a semi-professional senior ice hockey contract with National Hockey League Division 2 team, Altrincham Aces.

Margo Hrebinchyk, Year 5, came 2nd in the U10 Chess Regional Megafinal in Telford.

Sam Keep, Year 12, who has moved up into the Sale Sharks U17s Academy.

Ted Hatton, Year 11, has been selected for U18 England Hockey Player Pathway Talent Academy.

Evelyn Hodkinson and **Alex Taylor**, Year 8, who came 2nd and 3rd respectively in the U12 Chess Regional Megafinal in Telford.

Josh Jepson, Year 8, who has qualified for the Team GB U13 boys BMX World Championships in Copenhagen.

Anvi Lalwani, Year 9, who has gained a place in the Talent Academy as part of the England Hockey Pathway.

Izzy Lyons, who qualified for Horse of The Year Show 2024.

Joseph MacKenzie, Year 9, who was awarded a Merit in ABRSM Grade 3 Piano.

Edward Marsden-Smith, Year 6, who was awarded a Distinction in ABRSM Grade 4 Piano.

Rohan McCleery, Year 10, who was awarded a Merit in ABRSM Grade 2 Piano.

Beatrix Medcalf, Year 11, who was awarded a Merit in Trinity Rock and Pop Grade 5 Singing.

Ted Myers, Year 7, who was awarded a Merit in ABRSM Grade 2 Oboe.

Apolonia Olpinski, Year 9, who was awarded a Merit in ABRSM Grade 2 Clarinet.

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