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King's Colours

Summer 2015

The termly newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield

RECORD OFFERS FOR THE ARTS & SCIENCES

Sixth Form students and staff are delighted with the variety and quality of offers made in recent weeks by some of the UK's best universities.

Principal of the Sixth Form, Ruth Roberts, said: "The range of this year's offers shows the breadth of career choices for which King's is able to prepare students, from stage management to veterinary medicine, and a complete spectrum of arts, sciences, humanities, languages and business-related courses. It is wonderful to see so many young people pursue their dreams and win highly prized places."

A record 14 students have won offers to study medicine, veterinary medicine or dentistry. Pictured (from left) are Elaine Goulbourn, who has an offer to read veterinary medicine at Surrey; Tony Maximous, who has an offer to read medicine at Buckingham University; Aaron Shaughnessy and Katie Fray, who both have offers to read medicine from Bristol; Anja Knudsen, who has an offer to read veterinary medicine from Edinburgh and wants to specialise in equine surgery; Tom Pearson, who has an offer to read dentistry at Leeds; Ailbe Smith, who has an offer to read medicine from Imperial College London; Jen Shone, who has an offer to read medicine from Sheffield; Tabitha Green, who has an offer to read veterinary medicine at Bristol; and Jasper Rossi, who has an offer to read medicine from Downing College, Cambridge and wants to become a neurosurgeon. Not pictured are Ed McKee, who has received an offer to read Medicine from Edinburgh, and three candidates who achieved their A Levels last year and have offers to read medicine: Fred Green, who has an offer from King's College, London; Alex Calder, with an offer from Leicester and Emily Hocknell with an offer from Sheffield.

Meanwhile, our talented performing arts students have celebrated winning offers from the country's very best performing



arts colleges: Kate De Campos (pictured back, from left) has an offer to study the viola at London's Guildhall School of Music and Drama; Sacha Allen has offers from both the Royal Holloway and Royal Northern College of Music to study Popular Music Performance; Laura Embrey has an offer from the Royal Northern College of Music to study the violin and she subsequently plans to take up her

offer to read Mathematics at Clare College, Cambridge; bassoon player Jenna Self has offers from Royal Holloway and Goldsmith's College to study Music; Daragh Burke (front row) also has an offer from the RNCM; and Alex Moore has an offer to study Stage Management at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and has already completed a placement at The National Theatre.



Parent Satisfaction Survey



Since our last Parent Survey in 2012, the school has conducted a number of surveys of pupils' views, which are always fascinating and allow us to reflect on the progress we are making.

We are grateful to the 61% of parents who took part in our most recent survey. The excellent response represented opinion across all year groups from Pre-School to the Sixth Form, and with an even split of boys' and girls' parents.

The results were collated and analysed by an independent research company, which was able to benchmark our data against a national data set for independent schools.

Overall findings

The picture is extremely positive with high levels of satisfaction on the part of the current parent body. The school's key areas of excellence are: the well-rounded education, the warm and welcoming atmosphere, teaching quality, academic results, extra-curricular activities and class sizes.

The school was rated highly in all of the general satisfaction areas and especially highly regarded were the areas of leadership, general management, meeting parents' expectations and providing an environment conducive to producing happy pupils. Furthermore, King's has outperformed almost all of the available national benchmarks.

The main adjectives used to describe the school were: friendly, supportive, academic, disciplined and forward-looking. Parents would warmly recommend the school to others and feel proud to be part of the school community.

Satisfaction with school provision

Parents are generally very satisfied with the academic provision, with respondents rating the academic results the highest. In light of our recent changes to the school curriculum in the Infant and Junior and Senior Divisions, we were delighted that almost all parents were either satisfied or very satisfied with the result.

More than 95% of respondents were either satisfied or very satisfied with the school's atmosphere and ethos, with the same proportion commenting favourably on the school's development of pupil's self-esteem.

The school's fourth aim is to support parents in raising ambitious and well-rounded individuals, so we were pleased that 96% thought we were achieving this aim.

Parents were also very happy with pastoral care, relationships with peers, extra-curricular activities, individual support for children and developing pupils' potential. King's again outperformed the national benchmarks in all these specific areas.

Areas for attention

Whilst the picture is largely positive, there are a few areas on which to focus. Priorities for improvement are parent communications in general and online communication in particular, investment in facilities

whilst maintaining competitive fees, and possible expansion of the school's transport and bus provision.

Since undertaking the survey, we have already rolled out the online Parent Portal, which will improve communications with parents and later this year we will introduce the Pupil Portal. Facilities and transport are areas we know we need to continue to improve, and we will communicate with parents in further detail about our long-term plans and 2020 Vision.

New appointments

From September, our Sixth Form and Girls' Division will both have new faces at the helm. In the Girls' Division, Helen Broadley, who is currently a senior Biology teacher at King's, will take on the role of Principal, following the departure of Jo Anderson who is moving on to be the Head at Bury Grammar Girls.

In the Sixth Form, Dr Julie Cocker will succeed Ruth Roberts as Principal. We are delighted that Ruth will remain with us as Senior Teacher and continue to teach English.



Dr Julie Cocker,
Sixth Form Principal

Outdoor Learning Week

Infant and Junior children embraced the great outdoors during 'Outdoor Learning Week'. Our Pre-School and Reception children experienced a 'Forest Day' in our Ginkgo Meadow and had a visit from a horse as part of their 'On the Farm' topic.



Year 1 children learnt about mini-beasts during their 'Giving Nature a Home' event, whilst Year 3 children enjoyed studying rivers. Year 5 learnt all about Biodiversity and Habitats, whilst Year 6 pupils enjoyed a Citizen Science afternoon. In addition, Year 5 and 6 children took part in Bikeability, learning basic bike maintenance, safe mounting and dismounting, signalling and manoeuvring skills. All pupils also enjoyed a Treasure Trail which encouraged navigating and map-reading skills.



Two trophies for King's at Alderley Edge Music Festival

From classical melody to 1930s' Chicago jazz, the Songbirds choir wowed judges to win the Alderley Edge Music Festival's Choir category (Year 9 and under).

Formed earlier this year, the choir of 34 girls in Years 7 - 9 delighted audiences at the annual festival. Jo Beesley said: "A great choir doesn't just sing in tune, you need vibrant

facial expressions, good diction, an expressive range of dynamics and great chemistry between the performers."

Also winners at the Alderley Edge Music Festival were King's 'Woodwind Wonders', the 20 piece ensemble who won the Large Ensemble Class (Year 6 and under) with a programme that consisted of 'Pack up Your Troubles', 'Minuet In G' and 'I Wanna Be Like You'.



Awe and Wonder in Italy and Sicily

During the Geography Department's awe and wonder tour of Italy and Sicily, 49 pupils in Years 7 - 9 experienced some of southern Europe's most iconic sites. Pupils explored the beautiful town of Sorrento, the sprawling city of Naples, the lemon-tree-lined lower slopes of Mt Vesuvius and then climbed to the summit and looked into the steaming Vesuvius crater. The ancient Roman city of Pompeii was a reminder of the devastating power of volcanoes. Pupils' senses were assaulted in the Campi Flegrei, where the Solfatara crater's smell of rotten eggs, boiling mud, smoking fumaroles, and natural sauna were truly awe inspiring.

The second leg of their tour took pupils to Sicily where they experienced the beauty of the spectacular Alcantara Gorge, with lava flows from Mount Etna and some spectacular basalt columns. A trip up Mount Etna, Europe's most active volcano, included a cable car ride and a series of 4x4 jeeps to the snow-capped summit. The trip finished in the beautiful town of Taormina, with its famous Greek Amphitheatre.





LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION! THREE SHOWS PULL THE CROWDS

At King's, we are proud of our vibrant and dynamic Drama department. Students participate with tremendous enthusiasm and talent in all our productions, whether they are musicals staged with our rhythmic colleagues in the Music department, or more conventional 'straight' plays. And whilst our extra-curricular output is extremely important for pupils and staff alike, we also see the subject as an essential ingredient within the balanced curriculum on offer, ensuring pupils are developing key communication and group skills that are so essential to thriving in the modern world.

Last term, three memorable – and very different – productions epitomised King's professional and wide-ranging commitment to theatre, as pupils were not only

engaged on stage, but also in direction, stage management and musical accompaniment. They also designed programmes, created scenery, sourced costumes and applied stage make-up.

Our youngest pupils transported their audiences to the magical world of Hans Christian Andersen in the musical extravaganza *The Little Mermaid*. With action set both on land and under the sea, Year 6 performers appeared in a multitude of characters as seagulls, courtiers, sailors and underwater creatures, whilst both a storm and a whirlpool were created on stage with large-scale choreography. There were committed and passionate performances by all, as some of Disney's most well-known, and best-loved, characters were brought to life.

The Girls' Division production of Cole Porter's musical comedy, *Anything Goes* involved actors and singers from Years

7 – 11 in a kaleidoscope of magical music, slickly delivered farce and old-fashioned romance. Cole Porter's classic score cannot be bettered and this tale of the meeting between the aristocracy and the underclass show-cases some of the 20th-century's most enduring popular songs. With the zingy King's Jazz Band in full swing, the memorable numbers came energetically and it was 'De-Lovely' to hear 'You're the Top' and 'I Get a Kick Out Of You' played with precision and punch by our talented musicians.

The mood in the auditorium was very different for the staging of Friedrich Durrenmatt's deeply disturbing post-war tragicomedy, *The Visit*, as actors from the Sixth Form and the Boys' Division played to enthralled and perturbed audiences. The action centres around Claire

Zachanassian's desire for revenge on the man with whom she had a child when she was a teenager. Rich and famous, she re-visits the village in which she grew up, to offer a bribe to the villagers: her money in exchange for the life of her attacker, Arthur III. His neighbours' protective intentions are rapidly swept aside by greed as notions of community are dissected by Durrenmatt's incisive satire. Emma Maxwell (Claire Zachanassian) convincingly played a woman of strength, determination and bitterness whilst Ollie Muir (Alfred III) communicated powerfully the growing desperation of a man who cannot escape his fate. This uncompromising drama was chosen

for its capacity to provoke thoughtful responses in performers and audience alike: it gave King's actors another opportunity to demonstrate the maturity and commitment, which they consistently bring to challenging drama.

Next year, we are very excited about joining together all the Senior divisions and the Music and Drama departments, in order to produce a glorious whole school Musical in February 2016.



Football Glory!

Junior footballers have won the Reliance Sevens Trophy, completing the treble of top trophies this season including the Macclesfield section of The Cheshire Cup and the prestigious Macclesfield & District Premier League.

Pictured are (back row) Ollie Thomson, Harry Owens, Archie Little, Oscar Robinson, William Worswick and (front row) Jack Bray, Sam Danson, James Payne and Lewis Johnson.



U11 double winners!

King's U11 hockey team produced the best result in the school's long history, by winning the North of England 'In2' Hockey Championships.

Pictured are: (back row) Holly Burke, Sophie Scott, Lottie Dennett, Katie Barr, Izzy Moores, Harriet Bailey and (front row) Scarlett Brough and Sophie Miller.



Many of the girls also played in the winning U11 netball squad who lifted the Association of Junior Independent Schools' North West Netball Championship Cup. The AJIS trophy completes a season double with the girls also winning the Macclesfield & District League Division One.

Pictured are captain Izzy Moores (front), Scarlett Brough, Sophie Miller, Holly Burke, Lottie Dennett, Sophie Scott, Aimee Knight and Fay Fitzmaurice.



National stage for athletes

King's Sixth Form has three young women competing on the national stage. Rebecca Hughes (pictured right) is currently the National Schools' Sprint Triathlon champion; Sophie Quinn (centre) has two national silver and two bronze medals in sprint relay running at both 4 x 100 and 4 x 400 and in the triple jump; Charlotte Taylor has just qualified for the National Championships at 100m butterfly and ranks nationally for biathlon.



Year 6 Jersey Tour

Forty children relished an action-packed sports tour to Jersey during the Easter break. Enthusiastic and energetic pupils enjoyed a multitude of sport and leisure activities including both netball and football coaching. The girls brought back 'The Jersey Games' Netball trophy whilst the boys came up against some tough opposition to finish a very creditable third place in their Jersey Games Final tournament. All pupils improved and developed their skills, bringing back medals for their positive contribution to the Jersey Games.

U14 and U16 Cup Winners

King's rugby players have recorded an incredible double win at county level with both the U16s and U14s winning their Cheshire Cup finals. In a festival of youth rugby watched by an impressive crowd, the U14s first beat St Ambrose 20 - 17 in a titanic battle before their older counterparts outplayed Altrincham Grammar School to win by 17 - 6.

The 2015 season has also been the best ever rugby sevens season with the 1st VII winning the Solihull Bowl, making it to the finals in both the Cheshire Cup and Stonyhurst Cup and the quarter finals of the North of England championship. At U15 level, the squad was Cheshire Cup finalists, Solihull Cup finalists and Warwick Cup quarter-finalists. The U13s were the winners of the Nottingham HS Cup and the Solihull Bowl, as well as semi-finalists in the Warwick Cup. The U12s were Nottingham HS Cup winners and were finalists in the Warwick Cup.



EVENTS CALENDAR

Sunday 30 August
King's Old Boys' Rugby Sevens Festival
Derby Fields
(contact guy.mason@kingsmac.co.uk for details)

Thursday 15 October, 6pm - 10pm
Drinks in the City, London
East India Club, London SW1Y 4LH
(contact w.beatson@ntlworld.com for details)

Friday 13 November, 7pm
Annual Dinner
The Hunting Lodge, Adlington Hall

Wednesday 16 December, 7.00pm - 9.30pm
Recent Leavers' Christmas Drinks
King's Sixth Form Centre.
A free event for students who left King's in 2013, 2014 & 2015. To book a place, please email formerpupils@kingsmac.co.uk

Congratulations to:

Laura Chatwin who graduated from the University of Newcastle with a 2:1 in MEng Civil and Structural Engineering in 2014 and was awarded the Civil Engineering School Prize for 'Outstanding Contribution to the School', describing her as an excellent ambassador for the School of Civil Engineering and Geosciences.

Johny Marsden who, in the same week in May, has played cricket at Lord's for MCC and also played rugby at Twickenham for Oxbridge U23s in a match against the Combined Services U23s.

Harry Frost, who is a second year student at Edinburgh College of Art (ECA) and has been announced as the European winner of the Blumm Next Artists Prize 2015.

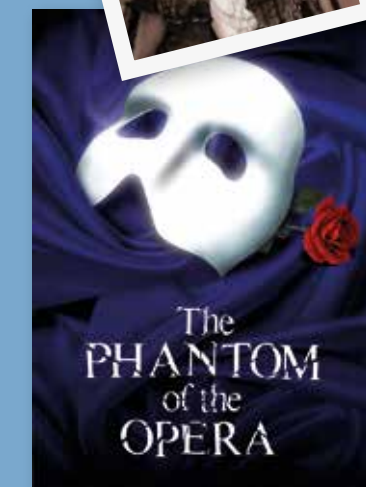
PROFILE: Fiona Finsbury

Fiona Finsbury [née Wilson] left King's in 2005 and went on to study Acting at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts in London. She is currently in the West End Cast of *The Phantom of The Opera*.

Fiona recalls: "During my time in the Girls' Division I had a very active role in the music and drama departments; I was Music Prefect, a member of the girls' choir and foundation choir and I led the school orchestra as first violinist. I took grade 8 singing and grade 8 violin whilst at King's, and I also got 6A*s and 3As at GCSE.



"I am currently the understudy for 'Carlotta' in *The Phantom of the Opera* in the West End, which means I have to don some rather extraordinary wigs and enormous dresses and belt out the high notes! I have been a very lucky understudy, as the actress playing the role has an established opera career in Portugal so she is often away doing concerts. I have played the role in total for five months in the past two years. When I'm not playing Carlotta, I am in the show every night playing five different characters and wearing a range of brilliant costumes.



"My fondest memories of King's include drama lessons, singing in the girls' barbershop choir, religious studies debates and French exchange trips. The teachers who influenced me the most were Mrs Pentreath and Mrs Beesley. Mrs Pentreath really encouraged me to see the world from other people's point of view; she taught me to question what was presented as fact and be more open minded

about the world and accepting of the people in it. Mrs Beesley nurtured my love of music and was very encouraging. Her positive outlook and passion for music and education were infectious. She instilled in me a belief that I can achieve my dreams.

"To those considering a career on stage, I would say get as much acting experience as you can, now. Take part in school plays, join local theatre groups, audition for professional youth theatre companies such as National Youth Theatre. If you want to be a professional actor you will need to train at an accredited Drama School and, once you have graduated, the real work begins! It is a very tough industry, with a lot of rejection. You have to really want to be in this industry to stick with it. But if you can keep going and remain positive, then the rewards that come from doing the thing that you love most in the world for a living are enormous; and life changing."

Community

Runway on the Runway

During the Spring Term, King's teenagers took to a runway under the wings of Concorde to raise thousands of pounds for The Teenage Cancer Trust. On Friday 27 March, King's pupils joined their counterparts from other schools to entertain and enthral a packed audience with several show-stopping runways showcasing fashion from BCBG Max Azria, Harvey Nichols and Kurt Geiger. Highly talented King's musicians, Jamie Edger-ton and Megan Huddy, were invited to perform at the event.

In the run-up to the big night, the teams spent many hours rehearsing their routines and worked tirelessly to fundraise for The Teenage Cancer Trust, including giving up their Saturday mornings to pack bags at Sainsbury's and Tesco. Together with numerous cake sales, chocolate tombolas, bingo games, bucket collections and a 'Raid My Wardrobe' event, the final fundraising total for Teenage Cancer Trust was £5000. Pupils' efforts were recognised when they were awarded the 'Stephen Sutton Thumbs Up Award' for their fantastic fundraising achievements.



Drumming Masterclass

World famous drummer Richard Jupp, who has been with Elbow for 21 years, gave a masterclass to 20 would-be drummers and young percussionists. Students learned the secrets of rhythm and beat from one of the UK's most innovative drummers. Richard told the pupils how drumming is as much a state of mind as a technique to master: "You have to have an awareness of your breath, thoughts and use positive self talk, which helps to focus the mind. Importantly, you must relax and be creative within your practice sessions and have some fun; that's when your best work is produced."



Congratulations to:

Oliver Bailey, who won the 1st round of the U8 English Fell Running Championships.

Imogen Collinson, who has been selected to join the Derbyshire County U13 girls' cricket squad this summer.

Georgia Cooper-Taylor, who was runner-up in the 16 and under category of the Lowry Living Edge Magazine Art Competition and **Izzy Stevens**, the winner of the 14 and under category. Their work was displayed at The Lowry in Salford, along with that of **Matt Peers**, in the U18 category.

Jamie Dunkerley, in Year 11, who has received a Civic Award for his voluntary work for the community of Bollington.

Alex Fray (Year 10) and **Alex Richmond** (Year 12) have both been selected to represent the UK at the forthcoming World Scout Jamboree in July in Japan.

Lauren Hayward, who won the Cheshire 'Poetry by Heart' competition and competed in the national finals.

Abi Johnston, who has been selected to play for the North of England U21 Hockey Squad.

Joe Larnar, who won the District Prize, the Junior County Prize and the Novice category prize in the recent Cheshire Scouts' County Hike, 40 km over two days.

Emma Maxwell, **Hannah Foster** and **Lydia Baldwin** who have achieved Grade 8 in their LAMDA Acting exams, and **Mad-eleine Phillips**, **Eleanor McKenna** and **Charlotte Abbott** who achieved Grade 8 in their LAMDA Musical Theatre exams.

Imi McCance in Year 12, who qualified for the Grassroots Horse-riding Championships at Badminton House.

Harrison Milner, **Jake Leech**, **Christian Tattum** and **Sam Parry**, who qualified for the North West finals of the UK Chess Challenge.

Matthew Payne, who has been awarded a Golf scholarship to study in Atlanta, Georgia, following his A Levels.

Abby Todd, who won the junior section of the Dean Valley Hunter Trials with her horse, Serenity, and has now qualified for The Championships at Eland Lodge later this year.

King's trampolinists, who achieved team titles in the Schools' National Trampoline Championships. **The U14 Elite Boys**, **U11 Intermediate** and **U11 Novice Boys** all won their respective team events. **Rowena Moores** was placed third in the U19 Elite Individual Girls' event and **Isabel Moores** came fourth in the U11 Intermediate Girls' Event.

The U18 netball and the U16 hockey teams, who achieved a double win at the prestigious Stonyhurst Invitational Tournament.

Dates for your Diary

24 June	Music Competition Soirée 7.00 pm Fence Avenue Hall
26 June	Lunchtime Music Concert 1.15 pm St Michael's Church
29 June	King's Taster Day for Year 5 pupils
30 June	Junior Summer Concert 7.15 pm Fence Avenue Hall
1 July	Infant Summer Concert 2.00 pm Fence Avenue Hall Sports Presentation Evening 7.00 pm Fence Avenue
5 July	Term ends at lunchtime