



# King's Colours

1502

Spring 2022

The termly newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield

## Debating team battle to reach Oxford Union



King's debating team has reached the regional finals of the English Speaking Union's Mace Debating competition, the oldest debating competition in the country.

The team sailed through two local qualifiers to gain a place at the regional finals. Ben O'Donnell, Sofia

Ghorbanian and Nicholas Reynolds successfully opposed the motion that "This House believes MPs should be barred from holding second jobs."

Head of English, Mr Kellett, said: "It's a massive achievement to reach the regional finals and just six schools will go on to the finals in the Oxford University Union. The process requires intelligent planning and research as well as quick, on-the-spot thinking."

## Our right royal tree!

Pupils and staff have planted an oak tree to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Mayor of Macclesfield, Councillor David Edwardes, donated the 'Quercus Robur' to King's as part of the Queen's Green Canopy project.

The Mayor is pictured with Year 7 pupils Alex Spivey and Lola Bianchi, who were both born on February 6, the date Her Majesty acceded to the throne in 1952.



## Oxford offers for Rosie & Euan

Two Sixth Form students have received offers from Oxford University. **Rosie Ibberson** has earned an offer from Pembroke College Oxford to read French. Rosie – a devotee of French literature and culture – is studying Maths, French and English Literature A Levels and is a clarinet player in King's Wind Band and Concert Band.

**Euan Usher** has earned an offer from St. Hilda's College, Oxford to read Biochemistry. The captain of King's hockey team, Euan is studying Biology, Chemistry and Maths A Levels. A brilliant academic, Euan would eventually like to undertake his own research in stem cell genetics.

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**T**HERE have been so many highlights since the last edition of *King's Colours*. Amongst the most significant has been the reintroduction of 'live' school concerts since the pandemic started. And, of course, these were also the first such events to take place in the new school.

There are few experiences that fill you with more joy than an Infant Nativity and our production at the end of last term did not disappoint; the triumphs and mishaps, quirks and whims were present in all their glory. The same could be said of the Year 3 and 4 production, *'Rumours'*.

The Autumn Concert, (pictured below) staged by Senior and Sixth Form pupils, was also a welcome return to live audiences at school events. It is very rewarding and enjoyable for a Head to witness the faces of parents 'light up' as they see their children enter the Jackson Hall, being able to actually watch them perform whilst sitting on seats in the same room!



Young people don't get many chances to be part of an Infant Nativity before they start growing up, and our Senior pupils don't get many chances to be band leaders before it's time for them to leave school for good. I was thrilled to be able to have parents watching as a live audience.

I am very much looking forward to the chance to watch the very first Senior production in the new school — *'Little Shop of Horrors'* in February. Performing Arts are at the start of a journey to rebuild participation and numbers following a

## HEAD'S UPDATE



period of time where it has been more difficult to start learning an instrument or have group rehearsals. It's a journey that we are determined to make as everyone benefits.

Our efforts to 'show off' the School throughout last term have paid off with a bumper crop of applicants for Infant, Junior and Senior places. This is wonderful for the security and development of the School and brings confidence for the future. One of our priorities for the School is to raise our profile within the community and our facilities and amazing site are a great asset in this regard.

Those families that visit the School on an evening or weekend will appreciate what a hive of activity the School has become, with a vast array of community users. It was also wonderful to be able to show off all that King's has to offer when the ISI team of inspectors visited in January; we are looking forward to sharing with parents their report later this term.

I know that preparation for external exams is increasingly occupying the thoughts of pupils in Years 11 and 13. To reach the advanced age of 18 having not taken an external exam was unheard of within our education system until the last few years.

Although predictably tinged with anxiety, the mood amongst these year groups is positive and productive and most are welcoming the plans to have their exams as close to pre-pandemic arrangements as possible. Teachers are also working hard to put pupils in the best possible position to succeed, creating opportunities for next year and beyond.

This edition of *King's Colours* is full of both group and individual successes and the endeavour and talent of our pupils never ceases to amaze. We have so much to be proud of! Please enjoy reading it and thank you for your continued support of School.

**Jason Slack,**  
Head of Foundation

## Physics Olympiad Ollie wins Gold!

A Level student Ollie Hall has won a Gold Medal in the National Physics Olympiad. From an elite entry of the nation's top young physicists, he came in the top 12 per cent, to earn the hugely prestigious Olympic Gold.

Sitting a demanding two-hour paper, higher than A Level standard, Ollie said: "Physics is an incredible subject and



Physics specialists are in high demand, not just because of the specific training it offers, but because all the other sciences are derived from Physics."

Ollie, who is also a keen tennis player, is reading Physics, Maths, Further Maths and Chemistry at A Level and is hoping to go join either Durham or Manchester University.

King's Head of Physics, Dr Hartnett, said: "Ollie is an outstanding student who always shows such enthusiasm for the subject and asks interesting, challenging questions. He has a real talent and richly deserves this huge honour."



## Team GB call-up for Emma

Sixth Form student and sport climber Emma Edwards has earned selection for the Great Britain Youth Climbing team. The super fit endurance athlete ultimately has Olympic ambitions, but first wants to establish her credentials on the national and international stage.

Competitive sport climbing has three categories: Boulder, Lead and Speed, and Emma is training for both Boulder and Lead which involve mastering different and increasingly difficult holds and routes to the top of the wall. Emma trains for around 16 hours each week and recently came fourth in a national event in Norwich.

## Model UN citizens!

In December, nine Year 12 and 13 students participated in the Model United Nations Conference.

King's pupils were outstanding throughout the day, placing third overall and winning the following:

Commended Delegation; Ben O'Donnell – outstanding delegation (won in the Human Rights Council); Owen Branthwaite – Special Mention; Jussi Peter-Hill – Highly Commended Delegate; Mexico (Owen Branthwaite, Sofia Gorbhanian and Oliver Lewer-Soitieu) – Outstanding Delegation in the General Assembly.



## Pupils welcome in the Chinese New Year



The Infant & Junior Division was full of activity to celebrate The Year of the Tiger, for Chinese New Year. In the Year 3 Craft Club, pupils enjoyed making paper tigers, Year 5 & 6 pupils created some beautiful artwork to show off their Chinese writing skills and in Year 1, pupils enjoyed a Chinese Dance Workshop and decorated porcelain plates.

**Gung hay fat choy!**



## Inside view on Westminster

Macclesfield MP David Rutley gave A Level Politics students an insider's account of Westminster life. Talking to students of what is one the fastest growing A Level subject at King's, he revealed what lies behind the headlines.

Miss Christie, King's Head of Politics, said: "I am incredibly proud of our students who organised the event and invited David in themselves.

"Our MP did an outstanding job of helping our students to understand the political process so they can access it both for their studies and also their appreciation of the wider world."

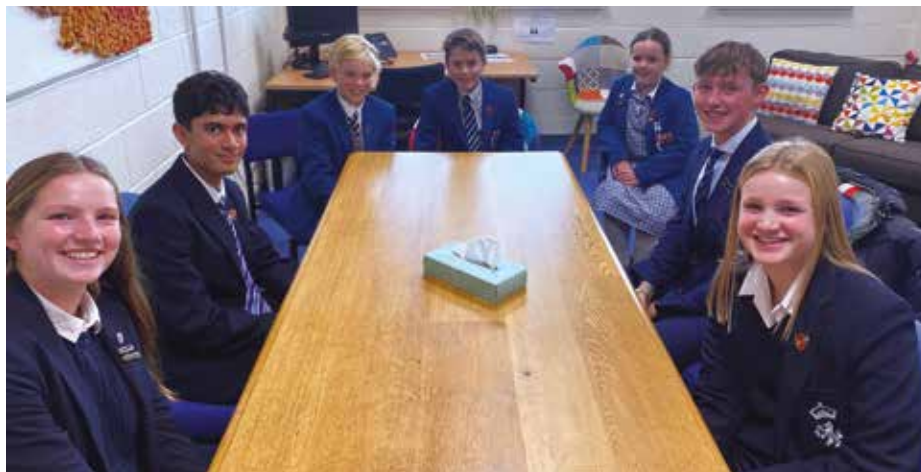




# PUPIL VOICE at King's



**Pupil Voice** is part of what helps to make King's the school that it is - there are many different groups throughout the school which are designed to promote pupil opinion and dialogue, as well as create opportunities for them to positively impact on their own school lives. Here, pupils **ALEX McCALL** and **EMMA GRAHAM** explain how pupil voice is heard:



## School Council

The School Council is the peak of the student voice in the School and all meetings are student-led. The Juniors, Seniors and Sixth Form each have individual councils. The heads of these councils, the Core Council, meet termly in a whole school meeting to further discuss issues from across the School. At Divisional Council Meetings, form representatives discuss topics that have been set out in advance, such as

environmental friendliness of school, diversity, inclusion and food options, to name just a few; any other business allows additional items to be raised.

In the Sixth Form, Chairs of the Sixth Form Council meet with the Principal, Mr Davies, after each of our meetings with Prefects and Form Representatives to discuss the issues raised, and work to find solutions – taking comments, suggestions, or conclusions back to the Council for further debate.

The Council Heads then work to implement any ideas which have a great deal of support – such as Sixth Form students being allowed to have driving lessons in their free periods. In the Infant & Junior Division and the Senior Division, a member of staff supports the meetings to offer immediate feedback or gather ideas to take away for further discussion. Overall, the Councils are a fundamental structure that contribute to the student voice being considered at every level.

## Pupil Leadership Group (left)

Once at term, our Foundation School Captains come together to share experiences and developments within their own Divisions. Our Junior Head Boy and Girl, our Senior Division Head Boy and Girl and our two Sixth Form School Captains meet formally and feedback their observations and ideas to their Principals. It is always a wonderful opportunity to get pupils from across all three Divisions together.

## Catering Committee (right)

In both the Senior Division and Infant & Junior Division, Catering Committee Meetings are held: food is very important at King's! Each form appoints a Catering Committee Representative at the beginning of the year and they represent their form at our half termly meetings with our Catering Team managers, Jamie and Diego.

This meeting offers the students an opportunity to share favourite dishes and discuss any less popular ones! The Catering Committee discuss break time and lunch provision, endeavouring to ensure our catering provision is the best it can be, with a balance of dishes that are healthy and nutritious alongside a few that are naughty, but so nice! The Catering Committee Team also make suggestions regarding Theme Days and Gala Lunches which we enjoy on a regular basis as a special treat.



## The Feminist Society

One of the newest additions to the pupil voice scheme is the Feminist Society – this group was established by Politics teacher, Ms Berzins, partly as a response to the murder of Sarah Everard. The group meets weekly to discuss feminism, both in the school community and the world as a whole. It is open to all and aims to improve the universal understanding of what exactly the female experience is, hoping to eradicate microaggressions and misogyny, alongside providing a space for people to discuss their own feelings and encounters with misogynistic behaviour.

## Politics Pressure Groups

In the Autumn Term, Government and Politics students from the Sixth Form participated in a Pressure Group Challenge – based on the democratic principle that people should be able to join groups that can confront the Government on issues that they care strongly about.

The challenge saw pupils from Year 12 and 13 producing ideas for things that they would like to see changed around school or in the local community, creating a campaign to go alongside it and, finally, presenting their work to the Senior Management Team and facing

rigorous questioning! Topics chosen included; introducing Politics as a subject to the younger years, improving education on menstruation at every age group and even making homework optional. This week-long event allowed students to raise issues that they felt passionately about, as well as helping them to articulate their opinions and ideas effectively.

## Student Surveys

Student surveys are, by far, the most wide-reaching aspect of the student voice. Surveys are sent out to the entire school and the results used to make relevant decisions – such as whether students would wish to donate an extra £1 for their Christmas lunch to support the homeless community, Sixth Form students' experiences of discrimination based on gender and whole school vaccination surveys. These surveys help give students direct input into the School and are a useful way of empowering their voices. Surveys are also used to glean information regarding pupil attitudes and experiences. As always, the pupil voices are heard as we strive to make King's the best we can.

## Equality and Diversity Council

The Equality and Diversity Council has been steadily growing over a few years, now having many members from across year groups. The Council seeks to both provide a safe space – where students can be open about their experiences and feelings – as well as coming up with ideas for how equality could be improved across the School as a whole. Past initiatives include; altering the uniform regulations to be gender-neutral, changing the rules surrounding Black hairstyles in school and running schemes to provide a greater understanding and acceptance of the LGBTQ+ community.

## Merit First

Merit First is a programme for secondary schools and youth groups across the world to join a community of students to do good and support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Our Merit First Council is entirely pupil-led and their achievements to date are aplenty, both in school and in our wider Macclesfield community.



*Overall, students have countless opportunities to be involved in the School, and the pupil voice is considered an important factor in all of this.*

ALEX McCALL & EMMA GRAHAM, Y13



## HOCKEY



## U13 Hockey

The U13 Boys squad won the 7s Power Play tournament at MGS beating Yarm in the final. U13 Boys are now through to the last 16 of the ISHC in February. The U15 Boys squad came runners-up in the 7s power play plate competition.

The U13 Girls came joint 1st in the Cheshire round of the National Schools' Competition, while the U14 Boys squad is through to the Tier 1 North West Finals in March and the U16 Boys came runners up in the North West Finals Indoor Competition. The Girls Senior Hockey Team came second in the North West Indoor Finals, narrowly missing out on the National Finals. They are through to the County Finals on 16 March and the Girls U16 Team is through to U16 County Finals on 26 March. Several individuals have been selected for Performance Centre squads, including: Archie Offer, Ella Bray and Sophie Fletcher (U17s); Tash Clark, Alastair Fitzmaurice and Callum Richardson (U15s).

## RUGBY

Our U16 team lifted the Cheshire Cup, defeating St Ambrose in a nail-biting encounter under the floodlights at Macclesfield RUFC. Ollie Davies converted his own brace of tries to run out 14-10 victors. Davies, Freddie Griffiths, Koby Wilkinson, Toby Wilson



## NETBALL

## U16 Cheshire Netball Cup winners

The U16 netball team has qualified for the National Schools' Netball Championship Finals in March. The girls secured their place as one of the top two schools in the Northwest in the Regional competition in Preston. Victories over Range School, Hodgson High Academy and Kirkby Stephen took them to a semi-final place against rivals The Grange. The girls played some great netball to win 11-7, before a narrow defeat in the Final saw them finish second to Cheadle Hulme.

The National Schools' Finals will bring together the top 18 schools from across the country to compete at Oundle School.

The girls have had an outstanding season so far, recently reaching the semi-final of the Sisters In Sport Cup. Representing the School in the Regional Competition were Lydia Hine, Gabby McIntyre, Minty Kight, Georgie Sanders, Leah Shadwell, Penny Tomlinson, Aimee Venables, Phoebe Thomson, Daisy Sutton and Madi Baxter.



## Netball Selections

Selected for representative netball are a huge number of players from across different year groups. Year 11 Madi Baxter has been selected for Loughborough Lightning, and both Minty Kight and Aimee Venables have been selected as Cheshire County players.

In other age groups, Daisy Sutton from

Year 10 has gained selection for Leeds Rhinos U15 and Cheshire County. Bea Worlock from Year 9 has made the cut for the Cheshire County U14 Academy. Esme Sutton from Year 8 has been selected for the Cheshire County U13 Academy; and Lalli Brown has been selected for the U13 Manchester Thunder squad. Charlotte Baxter from Year 7 has been selected for both Manchester Thunder U12 squad and Cheshire County U12 Academy. Hattie Usher and Minnie Farooq in Year 7 have been selected for Manchester Thunder Bees Pod and Cheshire County U12 Academy. Tilly Collins, also in Year 7, has been selected for Manchester Thunder Bees Pod.

and Evan Williams all made the step up to play 1st XV. Since then, the Senior XV have strung together a run of five matches unbeaten.

Our U14s continue on an 18-match unbeaten run, which has led them to the National Semi-Final. The Year 9 team start as favourites and can begin to dream of being crowned the best in the country. Sam Keep, Christian Smith and Charlie Kaye have all been influential.

Our U13s and U12s both remain unbeaten in 28 games between them. Joe Moores (U13) has been a catalyst, whilst our U12s have been well led



by Hayden Oliver, Freddie Bartle and Jasper Arrowsmith.

This is the most successful season in recent memory and has also seen the most fixtures with 160+ games and 195+ rugby players participating. This makes for a very exciting future!

## England Selection

Year 11 pupil Lydia Hine has been selected for the England Roses U17 Netball Squad. Lydia will be part of the national squad looking to defend their title at the Europe Netball U17 Championship in February.



## CROSS COUNTRY

Congratulations to our Junior boys (Year 7 and 8) Cross Country team who won the ESAA Cross Country Cup Regional Finals in November, qualifying for National Finals in December. They ran exceptionally well, finishing 14th overall from 27 teams. Bobby Tomlinson and Ross Hallinan ran especially well, finishing in 16th and 17th out of 148 runners. In February, our



pupils represented Macclesfield in the Cheshire Cross Country Championships. Congratulations to Grace Taylor (7th), Bobby Tomlinson (3rd) and Jamie McCabe (7th) on being selected to represent Cheshire at the National Cross Country Finals.

## TRAMPOLINING

A range of fantastic performances at the North of Britain Trampoline Championships saw 11 out of 12 King's teams and 22 individuals qualify for the British Championships in March, which will be hosted at our new campus. This is the School's largest ever number of pupils to qualify, in an incredible bounce-back after lockdowns.



Get Connected!

It's important to feel connected and part of something, which is what makes our exclusive online network for King's alumni – King's Connect – so much more than just a network.

To join, scan the QR code, left, or visit:  
[www.connect.kingsmac.co.uk](http://www.connect.kingsmac.co.uk)



SCAN ME!

## Former Pupils' Rugby Vs MRUFC

Christmas saw the return of the annual match between King's alumni and MRUFC and what a night it was. The King's team had 28 players who played a fantastic game, eventually coming out winners although it was a closer game. Supporters came out in force with the stand full to the brim, all in aid of East Cheshire Hospice. Well done to all players.



## Former Pupils' Hockey Tournament

Twenty two former pupils came to the new campus on 17 December to face King's current XI boys' and girls' teams. The boys' alumni team, captained by Jack Phillpotts, included Sam Buckingham, Tom Dennett, Tom Robinson, George Holden, Charlie Boddy, Tom Carter, Jack Lucas and John Aikin. After going down 3-1 in the first half, a late equaliser was scored and an even later winning goal for the former pupils.

In the girls' match, both teams were captained by a Moores, Olivia had returned from Loughborough to battle against younger sister Izzy. Although the game was lost for the alumnae, they put up a strong fight against the current 1st XI. After the matches, all of the players came together to play a mixed Former Pupils vs Current Pupils game with quick rotations. Thank you to the match officials, Paul Buckingham, Sarah Hardman and Matt Shaughnessy. It was great to see so many alumni and parents back at King's.



**8 March | 6.30pm**  
Former Pupils' Association AGM | King's Campus

**9 June | Alan McInnes Bursary Golf Day | 12.30pm**  
Prestbury Golf Club | (shotgun start)

**4 July | Opening of the Wilson Field & Former Pupils' Cricket Match**  
King's Campus

DIARY DATES







## Destiny Garden School

Our Junior Charity Ambassadors had the pleasure of presenting a very large cheque to two of the Committee Members from the Destiny Garden School Charity in Mombasa. Pupils managed to raise more than £1362 using a range of fundraising ideas, from cake sales to the Year 5 Christmas shop. Every penny is really appreciated and will have a huge impact for our friends in Kenya. The money raised will go towards feeding the 350 children at Destiny Garden School with nutritious school lunches for eight weeks.



## Best foot forward for The Christie

Sixth Form students Lottie Dennett, Anique Kuiper, Izzy Watkins and Freya White raised almost £4000 for The Christie by walking the 20 miles to school from Glossop.

They set off from one of their houses in the small hours of the morning, and walked the 20 miles to school in the dark in order to arrive by 8:20am and deliver an assembly! Well done girls on your amazing effort.

**Adam Al Ausi**, who passed his LCM Grade 6 Acoustic Guitar exam with Distinction.

**Harriet Bright**, who passed her ABRSM Grade 5 Clarinet exam with Merit.

**Fraser Day**, who passed his ABRSM Grade 6 Trombone exam with Merit.

**Will Davies** and **Nohan Alias**, who achieved a Gold certificate in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge.

The Equestrian Squad, **Oliver Ravenscroft**, **Georgie Lyons**, **Issy Lyons**, **Rubi Ambrey Brosnahan**, **Poppy Holding**, **Freddie James**, **Hattie Lowe** and **Reuben Blackhurst**, who represented the school in Show Jumping, Eventing and Dressage in January.

**Sebastian Fitzgerald**, who passed his ABRSM Grade 5 Piano exam with Merit.

**Ebony Gaddum**, who has been selected for the GB Junior National Gymnastics Squad.

**William Gandy**, who passed his ABRSM Grade 5 Violin exam with Distinction.

**Reece Grady**, who has been selected in the England Junior Swimming Squad.

**Philip Goodfellow**, who won a bronze medal in the 800m in the Northern Indoor Athletics Championships in Sheffield.

**Oliver Gotts**, who has been selected to represent Great Britain at U14 for inline hockey. He will play in Europe's largest inline hockey tournament at Easter.

**Ross Hallinan**, who passed his ABRSM Grade 5 Flute exam with Merit.

**Madeline Holden**, who passed her ABRSM Grade 8 Piano exam.

**Miss Sarah Hopkin**, who has been selected for the England 035s hockey squad and will now train for the 2022 World Cup. She will also compete in the Home Nations Tournament in June.

**Olivia-Honey Irving**, who has been selected to represent England in the Dance World in June 2022.

**Oliver Price-Williams**, who won three Gold medals in December in Swimming. He competed in the Satellites Last Chance County Qualifier, winning his age group in the 400m Freestyle, 200m Individual Medley and 200m Breaststroke.

The U13 Boys' cricket team; **Ollie Walsh**, **Tom Carlyle**, **Hugo Blackwell**, **Isaac Whenman**, **Joe Moores**, **Walter Travis**, **Walter Lowe**, **Alfie Usher**, **Ted Hatton**, who won the PowerPlay Tournament at MGS competing against 13 other schools from around the North.

**Jenny Wallace**, **Dylan Tyrell**, **Edwards Reynolds**, **Oliver Jones** and **Francis Bennett** in Year 11, who all achieved a Silver certificate in the Senior Maths Challenge.

**Jo Whiteley**, who passed her ABRSM Grade 8 Piano exam with Merit.

**Annabel Wong**, who had a brilliant run in Bath Tennis Europe, finishing Runner-up in the Doubles. She is now ranked No 2 in her age group.

**Jenny Wallace**, who passed her ABRSM Grade 5 Jazz Trombone exam with Merit.

**Natasha Williams**, who passed her ABRSM Grade 6 Clarinet exam with Merit.

The King's School, Macclesfield

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