

King's Colours

Summer 2008

The termly newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield

Head's letter



It hardly seems possible that ten years have elapsed since the inauguration of King's Colours. I have been lucky enough to be involved in the production of most of the editions and I hope you will agree with me that it has grown into a superb newsletter, highlighting the achievements of so many pupils.

There have been many high points over the decade but they must include the visit of Her Majesty the Queen on our 500th Anniversary and winning the BBC Senior School Choir of the Year Award. We have celebrated the success of countless pupils in sporting achievements and national awards as diverse as Paperclip Physics, Sculpture 4 You and Young Poet of the Year, to name but a few. At the same time, the academic attainments of our pupils have gone from strength to strength, with over 70% A/B grades at A level now being the norm.

There is always something to celebrate at King's and next year we shall be commemorating 100 years of girls' education at Fence Avenue. We have also had some distinguished visitors over the last few months. The talk by Sir Chris Bonington was the highlight for outdoor types, while the visit by Liberal Democrat peer Baroness Walmsley was the main event for the political animals in the Sixth Form.

All in all, it continues to be an exciting time to be at King's and I hope that you enjoy reading about it in these pages.

Stephen Coyne

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The school
number of pupils in the room
a record level of nearly 1500, so we
are obviously getting quite a few things
right. It is a shame then to report that
the media is full of speculation and mis-
information on the subject of indepen-
dent education. In particular, the topic
of public benefit keeps appearing, as if
it is a stick with which people can beat
those in schools like ours.

There is not room to go into detail here
but suffice it to say that King's has
been itself as part of the com-
munity regardless

who has been able
to read
at Wadham College and Econom-
ics, Philosophy and Materials
Science at St Catherine's).

OXBRIDGE OCTET

Sarah Falder (Law at Worcester), Emily
Nesbitt (Chemistry at St Edmund Hall)
and Harry Phillips (Modern Languages
at Exeter) are former King's students

THE NEWS AT TEN

A decade of King's Colours



Renaissance woman

Emily Middleton, King's school captain, has won the £3,000 first prize in a top poetry competition. The Christopher Tower Poetry Prize, funded by a bequest to Christ Church, Oxford, is the UK's most highly regarded poetry award for 16 to 18 year-olds.

Emily is pictured being congratulated by the Dean of Christ Church at a reception at the college. Her poem 'The Five Stages', written in response to the competition's theme of 'Change' and one of 600 entries, impressed the judges with its astonishing verbal flair and technical accomplishment.

Not content to excel in this area alone, Emily also entered the Institute of Economic Affairs Student Essay Competition where she was joint runner-up with an incisive essay entitled 'Climate Change and Market Failure'.



Taking action

Two Girls' Division students were so appalled by the situation in Darfur that they invited representatives from the AEGIS Trust to give a talk at the school. The Trust campaigns to prevent genocide worldwide and also leads political lobbying to stop ethnic cleansing in Sudan. The girls, Katie Reid and Isabel Wilkinson, have now set up the school's own AEGIS action group and organised a school petition and fundraising effort. Though they know they can have little effect on the Sudanese forces, they are determined to spread awareness locally of the plight of hundreds of frightened Darfurian refugees in this country.

Katie is pictured left and Isabel right.



Lowdown on the Lords

Sixth Formers were given an insight into the workings of the House of Lords recently. Liberal Democrat peer Baroness Walmsley visited the school to dispel the popular notion that the Upper House is 'populated by a load of old dodderers'. As a working biologist, university lecturer and PR consultant, she certainly doesn't fit into that category. Baroness Walmsley gave a lucid defence of the role of the House and answered searching questions from the students.



Challenging maths

Laura Embrey and Dmitri Whitmore have achieved outstanding success in the Junior Mathematics Challenge, organised by the Mathematical Association. Out of 108,000 entrants from 2,880 schools, they both reached the final, alongside 750 other children. Dmitri, whilst still only in Year 5, was placed among the top 100 competitors and won a Silver Award, and Year 6 pupil Laura's mark put her in the top 50, for which she was awarded a Gold.

Founders' Day

This year's Founders' Day speaker was former pupil Duncan Robinson, Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge, and internationally distinguished art historian and author. Duncan lived in Kidsgrove as a boy, travelling to school on the train every day, before going to Clare College, Cambridge. His impressive academic career includes master's degrees from Clare and Yale. In a fascinating address, he encouraged the pupils to value their inheritance as members of a school with a fine tradition, and to continue that spirit of excellence with their own achievements.



Just magic

Year 10 pupil Douglas Tilston finished second in the World Junior Magician Championships in Blackpool. He often entertains boys at King's using close-up skills in magic, a highlight being when he produces a bottle of wine from nowhere.



A talent contest, also organised by boys in Year 10, was one of many activities held in aid of the Samaritans. Alex Frankell, accompanied on piano by Tom Baston, stole the show with a Keane number. Comedy routines, music solos and light-hearted world record attempts helped make it a memorable event.

Bookworms

Junior pupils enjoyed a book-themed week in March, with many activities and competitions, including decorating classroom doors as the front covers of books, a Big Read Challenge and a Book Character Dressing Up Day. Flat Stanley, Dennis the Menace, Cruella de Vil, Dracula and Frodo the Hobbit happily rubbed shoulders and it gave the children a chance to share their favourite characters.

A highlight was the three-day visit by the poet David Horner, who led a poetry workshop with each class. The children had the chance to read some of their poems during assemblies and also really enjoyed listening to his work. About fifty pupils chose to give up watching television and playing computer games during Book Week and opted to enjoy extra reading time instead.

Poetry masterclass

Poet Michael Symmons Roberts visited King's on World Book Day. In addition to several poetry collections, Michael's work includes opera libretti written in collaboration with composer James MacMillan and a long poem 'Last Words', performed by Sir Anthony Sher, which was commissioned by Radio 4 to mark the first anniversary of 9/11. Michael's collection, *Corpus* won the Whitbread Prize for Poetry in 2004.

Michael spent the day with Year 8 pupils on both sites. He read from his poetry, answered questions from his audience on his working practices and then helped selected pupils with their own poetry.



The Year of the Rat

A traditional Chinese show, complete with Dragon and Lion dance, was the infants' way of greeting the Year of the Rat. (What they'll probably remember most, though, is being allowed to spit lettuce at the audience to bring good luck.) The show was the culmination of a project on Chinese culture and customs and the children were even treated to a Chinese lunch. Pictured are: Millicent Potts, Charlotte Wardle, Toby Stevens, Emmie Penkett, Ffyona Booker and Florence Bradshaw.



Congratulations to:

Pupils:

Emma Draysey and **Lydia Rex** for bringing us a step closer to being an Eco Division through all their recycling projects.

Tom Foreman, who has been selected to play cricket for the Cheshire U14 team against Derbyshire and Lancashire.

Charlie Leddy and **Harry Stewart**, who represent Cheshire in the U15 and U14 hockey teams. The U15s are now National County Champions.

George Morrissey and **Chris Mysko**, bronze award winners in the British Biology Olympiad.

Alex Shaw, who will represent the Pony Club of Great Britain at the Mounted Games in Australia this summer.

Alison Smith, who sang at the Birmingham Symphony Hall with the National Youth Choir.

Junior Division pupils, who raised £600 for the charity Hope 4 the World.

U11 girls' netball team, winners of the local primary schools league and joint winners of the local cup competition.

U11 boys' rugby team, on reaching the final of the AJS tournament and winning the plate at St Mary's, Liverpool.

U11 elite girls' trampolining team, placed second in the National Schools Championships, and the **U11 novice boys**, placed third in their section.

Year 8 netball team, placed second in the Macclesfield & District Netball League and runners-up in the HMC netball tournament and the U13 county tournament

U16 swimming team, winners of the Newcastle-under-Lyme freestyle swimming relay and third in the medley relay.

Senior Rugby Seven, who reached the final of the Stonyhurst Sevens.

Former staff:

Gareth Jones and his wife, **Zelda**, on the birth of their son in April.



Eyes on England

Chris Connolly's great ambition is to open the bowling for England. He has been signed up by the Lancashire Academy, has already achieved a bowling speed of 82mph and has set his sights on 95mph. Having played for the England U15s and the North of England U17s, his next step is to graduate to the England U17s this summer.

King's cricket coach Steve Moores says the 6-foot 5-inch bowler has control as well as pace and is the fastest bowler he has seen at King's in the last 30 years. Earlier this year Chris toured Sri Lanka with the King's cricket squad, meeting Peter Moores, Monty Panesar and Matt Prior.

Equine first

King's is the first school in Cheshire to set up its own Equestrian Society. The brainchild of two teachers with a passion for riding, Rachel Maddocks and Jenny Pinkham, the society has already attracted 24 riders. They meet each week at livery centres and stables across the county to develop dressage and show-jumping skills. Classes and competitions are being arranged against schools and clubs from the North and Midlands and, although most of the riders are from the Girls' Division, the society is also attracting a growing number of boys.

Sixth Form students take a break during a winter mountaineering expedition in the Cairngorms at Easter.



James Painton Cup

The James Painton Cup for the Most Improved Player in Rugby has been awarded to Sam Travis in Year 10. Sam is the first recipient of the trophy awarded in James's memory. James made significant strides in his playing career to become a very good 1st XV sportsman. Similarly, Sam has become a potent force in the U15 A side, having not previously been a regular member.



The play's the thing

There's always an undercurrent of excitement and anticipation when a major new drama production is brewing at King's – and the first night never disappoints. Over the years, the school has built up a remarkable reputation for the quality of its performances – and with good reason. The staff involved give and expect total commitment, and the students respond with an astonishing display of talent and professionalism. Audiences buy tickets, not out of a sense of duty but with the certainty of enjoying an unforgettable night out.

This year's productions alone give a taste of the scope and imagination characterising drama throughout the school. They range from David Farr's sparkling new adaptation of *Ramayana* and a thrilling staging of *Oliver!* at Cumberland Street, to Timberlake Wertenbaker's modern classic *The Ash Girl* and the enchanting musical *Antiphony* at Fence Avenue.

In *Antiphony*, a tale of insect rivalry and inspiration, Year 6 delighted audiences with superb choreography, singing and costumes. By contrast, *The Ash Girl* was a dark, moving retelling of the Cinderella fable, subtly translated into a profound story about depression and human fallibility.

Oliver's cast of over 50 from Years 7-12 bewitched with their youthful verve and sheer musical ability and there were many outstanding individual performances. The Dramatic Society, with a cast almost as large, rose magnificently to the challenge of the blank verse of *Ramayana*. Though very much a morality play, it has moments of great comedy and the actors brought the extraordinary characters and events to life with energy and passion.

A parent's view

'It has been an incredible opportunity, particularly for Year 7 and 8 students at such an early stage in their secondary school careers, to be able to participate in the portrayal of a beautiful, moral tale with real wit and imagination. The fact that King's is able to offer extra-curricular drama of such calibre is a credit to the school and staff and children involved.'



Clockwise from above:
Antiphony, *The Ash Girl*,
Oliver! and *Ramayana*



Memorial bench

In memory of King's pupil James Painton, Chris McGee has made a bench as part of his Design Technology A Level project. It was Chris's own idea that he should create a memorial. The bench will be in the picnic area just outside the Sixth Form Centre, forming a permanent feature of everyday life. A rugby trophy has also been awarded in James's memory.

Nigel Painton has sent some thoughts to the Head of Foundation, which he is happy to have quoted here:

I would like to thank all concerned with James's memorial rugby match in January, organised by Tom Bamford, which was a great success! James had a talent for bringing people together, which he is still doing now. I would like to think that Shirley, Sophie and I will be in touch with James's friends and their families for life.

James said he would consider himself a success if he could bring up his son the way he himself had been brought up. He was clearly a mature young man who took nothing for granted in his short life. The school gave him many opportunities and must take a large part of the credit for the way he turned out.

I would like to thank the school for the support they have given us over the last few difficult months. We would also like to thank Chris for making the memorial bench and Andy Rice for organising the 'memorial frame' displayed at the Derby Fields, as well as introducing the Cup for the Most Improved Player, with the help of the Friends of King's.



100 years at Fence Avenue

If anyone has any information or memories relating to life at Macclesfield High School, particularly concerning uniform, the Duke of Edinburgh Award, The Guide Company or canoeing on the canal, please would they contact librarian Jean Laidlaw on 01625 260000 or email jean.laidlaw@kingsmac.co.uk



Former Pupils' Association

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

30 May	Frank Moore Trophy Macclesfield Golf Club Contact Alan McInnes 01625 428961
10 June	Committee Meeting 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Staff Room
20 June	Summer Dinner Dance 7.30 pm The Bridge Hotel, Prestbury
9 July	Cricket Match

Scholarships

The following pupils have been awarded scholarships for the senior school in September. Congratulations to them and all the successful applicants.

Rheanne Beresford	Wilmslow Preparatory School
Jamie Edgerton	King's Juniors
Laura Embrey	King's Juniors
Juliette Gorb	King's Juniors
Jonathan Hammill	King's Juniors
Anja Knudsen	Brabyns School
Emily Mound	King's Juniors
Sophie Quinn	Gawsworth Primary School
Jennifer Shering	Gawsworth Primary School
James Sudweeks	King's Juniors
Anna Whaley	Burbage Primary School

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

20 May	Year 7 Performance Evening 7.00 pm Fence Avenue
22 May	Year 13 Leavers' Morning, Derby Fields
10-12 June	Years 7, 8, 9 Internal Examinations
13 June	No School for Pupils, Marking Day Friends of King's Summer Ball 7.30 pm Hunting Lodge, Adlington Hall
23 June	Year 11 Prom 8.00 pm Tytherington Club
25 June	Infant Sports Day 12.00 pm
26 June	Junior Sports Day
27 June	Girls' Division Sports Day 1.30 pm Sixth Form Leavers' Ball 6.30 pm Shrigley Hall
29 June	FOKJ Year 6 Leavers' Party
1 July	Lower School Soirée 7.15 pm Fence Avenue
3 July	King's Sings Concert 7.15 pm Cumberland Street Hall
4 July	Infant Summer Concert 2.00 pm Fence Avenue Hall
8 July	Junior End of Year Celebration 1.30 pm Fence Avenue Hall Junior Summer Concert 7.15 pm Fence Avenue Hall
9 July	Term ends at lunchtime
14 August	AS & A2 Results Day
21 August	GCSE Results Day

Admissions

For information about admissions to all Divisions, please contact the Admissions Office on 01625 260000 or email: mail@kingsmac.co.uk