



King's Colours

Spring 2008

The termly newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield

Head's letter

May I start by wishing a Happy New Year to all our readers. This is an exciting time for King's as yet another landmark is on the horizon: 100 years of education at the Fence Avenue site. We will celebrate this fully in the next academic year but it follows on from our 150 years at Cumberland Street, celebrated in 2006/7.

The school is much in demand, with the number of pupils in the Foundation at 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 misinformation on the subject of independent 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 always seen itself as part of the community and that will be true regardless of the prevailing political landscape. The fact that the Quincentenary Bursary Scheme has already raised one third of a million pounds to help those who can benefit from the education provided at King's, but have limited finances, is a testament to this philosophy.

I believe that we do offer a significant benefit to our community. I hope you enjoy reading about what we have on offer as you turn these pages.

Stephen Coyne



OXBRIDGE OCTET

It's the place to be! King's new Sixth Form Centre – opened last term and already greatly admired by a host of visitors – is buzzing with excitement and creativity. The superb facilities have delighted and inspired staff and students, who have already staged a whole range of events, including a dazzling pre-Christmas art exhibition by members of staff.

It's also a highly successful and stimulating place to study, as the current batch of provisional Oxbridge offers proves. Bound for Oxford are school captain Emily Middleton, who has been offered a place at Wadham College to read Politics, Philosophy and Economics, Christian Bridge (Materials Science at St Catherine's),

Sarah Falder (Law at Worcester), Emily Nesbitt (Chemistry at St Edmund Hall) and Harry Phillips (Modern Languages at Magdalen). Former King's student Dominic Hall also gained deferred entry to St Hilda's to read Physics and Philosophy. Vice-captain James Fox is off to the Fens to read Law at Peterhouse, and will be joined in Cambridge by Julia Phillips who will study Architecture at Robinson College.



Left to right: Julia Phillips, Emily Nesbitt, James Fox, Harry Phillips, Sarah Falder, Christian Bridge and Emily Middleton. Dominic Hall (inset).



Design-a-car

Bentley Manchester invited pupils in Years 7-11 to take part in a competition to design a Bentley car for 2020. The King's finalists were Mollie Barbe, Ralphie Butterworth, Rosie Swinhoe and Ali King. They travelled to the firm's new showrooms in Knutsford where Rosie Swinhoe, as the King's winner, was presented with a limited edition print produced by the car design team in Crewe. Her design was described as incorporating modern environmental and technological touches in a very classic Bentley design. The winning designs from King's and the other three institutions taking part were sealed in a lead time-capsule, which was buried outside the new dealership.



Mathematics challengers

The results of the UK Junior and Intermediate Maths Challenges earlier in the year (2007) were a hard act to follow but King's Sixth Formers made it a record year all round with spectacular results in the Senior Maths Challenge too!

Thirty five students entered and between them 26 gained certificates – 5 Gold, 6 Silver and 15 Bronze – a staggering 74% which is way beyond the national average.

Katherine North and Sarah Gales (pictured) gained the further distinction of qualifying for the British Mathematical Olympiad by virtue of their outstanding scores.

Beyond belief

In its quest to tackle the big questions, the Arts & Philosophical Society is attracting some distinguished speakers. First keynote guests, challenging the sixth form philosophers to 'think outside the box', were modern poet Michael Symmons and *Guardian* education journalist David Ward. Now the BBC's Head of Religion and Ethics Michael Wakelin has challenged popular opinion by asserting that organised religion is alive, well and living in this country. Inner city congregations are growing, the evangelical church is thriving, 500,000 devout Polish Catholics have joined our communities and the Muslim faith is attracting more people.



A film crew calls

Back in 2003, King's Foundation Choir won the very first BBC *Songs of Praise* School Choir of the Year competition. Nearly five years on, the BBC returned to the Girls' Division to film a review, bringing with them television presenter and former boy soprano Aled Jones. Aled is an old friend of the Choir, having appeared with them on several *Songs of Praise* programmes and in concerts at The Royal Albert Hall, The Symphony Hall, Birmingham and The Bridgewater Hall, Manchester.

Harvest home

Elderly residents at Winlow Flats were delighted to be brought harvest gifts by a class of Year 6 pupils. The rest of the lavish array at the Infant and Junior Harvest Festival was shared between the Salvation Army and Macclesfield Care & Concern. Pictured with some of the gifts are Jack Qualtrough and Esme Davies.



Festive minibeasts

The Infants Christmas play told the story of an estate agent bee with a run-down stable to let. Ants, woodlice and ladybirds were keen to move in but were astonished to find a young mother and her new-born baby in the stable. The Nursery children, meanwhile, told the tale of the Grumpy Sheep who travelled to Bethlehem. When she saw the baby she became a very smiley sheep!

Roll over, Tunncliffe

Macclesfield already has one famous bird painter. Now it looks as though Charles Tunncliffe has a rival. King's sixth former Gemma Lord has won the RSPB regional art competition (13-19 year-old category).



One man and his cat

Year 4 presented *Dick Whittington* as their annual pantomime performance. All the children were involved, telling the tale of a plague of rats, a sea journey, a shipwreck and a happy ending on a desert island. Zarin Salehin gave a confident performance as the young Dick and Sam Brindle was comical as the evil King Rat. The costumes were colourful and the songs catchy but the children's favourite was the Petula Clark classic, 'Downtown'!



Dressed to kill

The theme was *Casino Royale* and King's own Daniel Craigs and Eva Greens took to the catwalk for the annual charity fashion show. Outfits came from Macclesfield's charity shops and top boutiques. Record proceeds of over £3,000 were split between Christies Against Cancer and Francis House, the charity nominated by the family of James Painton.



Fast track fundraising

In just twelve weeks, Girls' Division pupils raised £3553.50 for Oxfam to help build a school in the Congo. Rising enthusiastically to the challenge, they organised over fifty fundraising events. Activities included carol singing at Sainsbury's, organising a Christmas party for Year 7 girls and purchasing hoodies. Head Girl Anna Beesley set herself the task of learning the names of all 370 girls in the Division and raised £100. Working across year groups, in form groups or individually, all the girls showed tremendous resolve and innovation, determined to make a real, tangible difference to the lives of their contemporaries in Africa.

Top trampolinists

King's trampolinists lifted six of the eight team titles at the county championships. Five pupils also won their individual sections, with 33 qualifying for the North-West regional heats. Team winners included the U11, U13, U15 and U19 girls; individual winners were Bethany Burrows, Charlotte Horne, Katie Cornish, Danielle Allwright and Charlotte Attenborough. The teams are coached by Rachael Burrows, head coach of Macclesfield Trampolining Club, who was awarded the title of Female Coach of the Year at the Cheshire County Council Awards Dinner.



Congratulations to

Pupils:

Alix Davies, runner up in the Macclesfield Cross Country Championships.

Oliver Gilman, who finished fourth in the National Youth Fly Fishing Championships, re-qualifying to represent England for the second successive year.

Elliot Malkin, voted the most improved junior in the NW Junior Orienteering squad 2007.

Edward Nathan and **Elizabeth Bell**, for submitting the most correct answers to Puzzle of the Fortnight in the Autumn term.

Katie Reid and **Isabel Wilkinson** for promoting awareness of the Aegis Trust via presentations, speakers and letters to MPs.

Sarah Vickers, for winning a singing competition and the chance to record a CD.

The Lego team (Yrs 7 & 8 boys and girls), who were awarded the trophy for the best presentation of the day at Halewood.

Former Pupils:

Natalia Rukazenkova, who was awarded a First Class Honours degree from the University of Cambridge.

Sarah Sutton-Heath, who was awarded a First Class Honours degree from the University of Manchester.

Staff:

Jeff Dodd, who played for the Cheshire Veterans in their annual Boxing Day hockey fixture against Lancashire Veterans. Cheshire won 4-2.

Gap students

Annabelle Matthews (below) is King's new Gap Year student. Annabelle, from Sydney, will soon be joined by fellow Australian, Andrew Caddy, and James Hyman from Durban. Between them, their sporting expertise includes athletics, swimming, water polo, netball, hockey, cricket, rugby and squash.



Sri Lanka tour

Visiting Sri Lanka proved a fascinating all-round education for King's cricketers last December. One day, they were rubbing shoulders with England internationals; the next visiting a village devastated by the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami. Coached by Steve Moores, brother of the England coach and former King's captain Peter Moores, they shadowed the England team, playing in the same test arenas as the full international side and meeting test players such as Matthew Prior and Monty Panesar.

Sailing ahead

All the hard work and training has paid off. Year 9 pupil Elliott Hanson has again been selected to join the RYA Topper National Junior Squad for 2007/8. Last year he attended the World Championships in Italy, where he finished 19th and 1st under 14. His winter programme consists of seven residential weekends, including one at the Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy – the venue for the sailing events in the London 2012 Olympic Games.



Firsts and foremost

The last *King's Colours* recorded the remarkable achievements of two former students. Both gained the top marks in their subjects in finals at Oxford: Jonathan Gartside in Engineering and David Illingworth in English.

Since leaving King's David and Jonathan have enjoyed a varied, challenging and enjoyable time. At Worcester College, David sang bass in the main college choir of men and boys and the mixed choir. He held a Choral Scholarship during his second and third years, with duties involving four services each week. In addition to the creative stimulus, this entitled him to a free three-course meal after each service! David also set up a poetry society in his second year and in his third ran an early music group, Worcester Fragments, which sang regularly at events in Oxford and elsewhere. He did not claim great sporting merit but played a couple of games for the croquet team – mainly so that he could wear the T-shirt and drink the Pimms – and played cricket on occasion against other college choirs. He now works for the Ministry of Defence.

Jonathan Gartside was awarded the Lubbock Prize for the top First in Engineering. He spent his first twelve months after King's working on engineering projects at AstraZeneca as part of the Year in Industry programme, and was awarded the Lubbock scholarship at the end of his first year at Balliol College. The fourth year of his course was spent at Princeton University, under the Oxford/Princeton exchange scheme. Jonathan played rugby for the Greyhounds, Oxford's Second XV, and undertook a sponsored hitch-hike to Morocco to raise money for Link Community Development. He made good use of contacts made at Princeton to tour the US, from New Hampshire to New Mexico and Montana to Massachusetts. He also found time for a trip to New Zealand. He now has an internship with Guinness Atkinson, fund managers, undertaking technical appraisals of alternative energy schemes.





Another century for King's

We shall be celebrating 100 years of girls' education at the Fence Avenue site next year. The Girls' Division building was officially opened on 18 February 1909 as home to Macclesfield High School, the first purpose-built secondary school for girls in the county.

We are planning a series of celebrations throughout the year including several exhibitions, a special Founders' day service, an Open afternoon and a pageant portraying 100 years of education. The Macclesfield High School Old Pupils' Society and former staff have already been extremely helpful in our planning but we would be very grateful for any memorabilia: photographs, uniform, exercise books, reports, magazines etc. If you would be able to loan us any items please contact Jean Laidlaw, School Librarian, on 01625 262000 or e-mail jean.laidlaw@kingsmac.co.uk.



On top of the world

Britain's best known mountaineer Chris Bonington is to give a lecture at King's. The first Briton to climb the North Face of the Eiger, he later tackled the world's last great unconquered climbs, successfully leading attempts on the South Face of Annapurna and the South West Face of Everest. His talk, 'I Chose to Climb' is the latest in a series organised by King's Outdoor Activities Department. The department has been involved in many exciting expeditions of its own, including trips to the Himalayas and the Alps, and has a mission planned to the Bolivian Andes this summer.

Tickets for the lecture in the Main Hall on Tuesday February 19 at 7.15 pm are £10 and can be obtained from the Foundation Office on 01625 260000.



Former Pupils' Association

Cricket celebrations

150 years of cricket at Cumberland Street were celebrated in style by the KSMFPA at Adlington Hunting Lodge in November. Two England cricket coaches attended the dinner: David Lloyd was the speaker and gave an hilarious address, much of it at the expense of Geoffrey Boycott, in the presence of guest of honour and former pupil, Peter Moores.

Christmas rugby

Over 100 former pupils took part in the traditional Old Boys' rugby matches over the Christmas holidays. Thanks to Bill Beatson and Tom Bamford for organising the events.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

9 May	Annual London Dinner 7.30 pm RAF Club, Piccadilly Contact Keith Aikin 01227 456835
30 May	Frank Moore Trophy Macclesfield Golf Club Contact Alan McInnes 01625 428961

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

18-22 February	Year 10 Work Experience
19 February	Sir Chris Bonington Lecture 7.15 pm Cumberland Street Hall
26-29 February	Oliver! 7.15 pm Cumberland Street Hall
1 March	Big Band Concert 7.30 pm St Andrew's Church
7 March	Sixth Form Spring Ball 7.30 pm Palace Hotel, Buxton
12-15 March	Ramayana 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
18 March	Musical Soirée GCSE Pupils 7.30 pm Cumberland Street Hall
19 March	Junior Easter Service 11.00 am St Paul's Church Senior Divisions' Founders' Day Services am St Michael's Parish Church Term ends at lunchtime

Admissions

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