



King's Colours

Autumn 2012

The termly newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield

Best ever GCSE results buck national trend

King's students are celebrating the best GCSE results in the school's history – putting our results amongst the highest in the region. With a record-breaking 33% of all grades at A* and 63% at A*/A, the King's results are bucking the national trend which has shown a fall in the number of top grades as the government seeks to end a decade of grade inflation.

For King's Boys' Division, this year has shown a dramatic 10% rise in the numbers of A* and A grades. An incredible 32 boys gained 8 A*/A or better. Two young men achieved the holy grail of ten A*s – trainee pilot David Marchington and UK Maths Challenge Silver medalist Richard Southern.

The Girls' Division had yet another year of incredible results with nearly 40% of all grades at A* and a whopping 70% at A*/A. This means that for the third year running, our girls' results are amongst the highest in Cheshire.

Dr Simon Hyde said: "We're celebrating our highest ever levels of A* and A grades at a time when the government is tightening standards and fewer A* - B grades have been awarded nationally. So for our students and staff it is a

- 86% of all grades were A* - B
- 44 pupils achieved 9 straight A*/As or better
- 41% of students got eight As or better
- A*s 10 percentage points higher than independent schools' average



double celebration and I am truly thrilled for our pupils who will lead a strong cohort into our Sixth Form."

Lauren Goulder, David Marchington, Justine Blake and Alex Swift (pictured below) are among the straight A students. Lauren got eight A*s and two As; David got a clean sweep of 10 A*s; Justine got nine A*s and hopes to follow a career in Medicine; and Alex got eight A*s and one A and wants to go into teaching.



King's in the community

King's pupils make an enormous contribution to our local community, through both direct community action and fundraising. Last year King's raised an impressive £25,000 for a variety of charities. Of this, around £10,000 went to

charities that relieve poverty and a further £14,000 went to charities that save lives or improve health, in particular East Cheshire Hospice, The Christie, NSPCC and Christian Aid. Dr Hyde says: "What we do for others says much about who we



are. King's has a proud history and an equally strong association with its locality. As a former pupil of the school, who was born and raised here, I count myself amongst the keenest supporters of King's work in the local community."

One year on and a new senior line up



How have you found your first year as Headmaster of King's?

It was Harold Macmillan who spoke of 'Events, dear boy, events' being the

stuff of politics and we've had plenty of events this year! Some have been profoundly sad, like the loss of David Pook, our Deputy Head, but even that taught me how special a place King's is. The first year has flown by and I am very proud of the huge amount that has been achieved.

What have been the most notable achievements?

As well as the school having achieved its best ever GCSE results, we have made a number of physical enhancements to the school including new netball and cricket facilities, a new Junior playground and improved disabled access at Fence Avenue as well as a refurbishment of the boys' dining hall.

I believe passionately in the importance of good leadership and I have made a number of key appointments to our Senior Management Team: two new Deputy Heads and a Director of External Relations.

The new Deputies are both Cambridge graduates. Toby Seth has a roving brief that will enable the school to invest time in special projects and initiatives, including ICT. Richard Griffiths is charged with

promoting academic standards, teaching and learning as well as conducting a full review of the curriculum.

Toby, who teaches modern languages, has previously taught at a number of renowned schools including Wellington College and Godolphin and Latymer. Richard, an English teacher, has worked at both Bolton Girls' and Bolton Boys' schools. They join Caroline Johnson, who started last term in the role of Director of External Relations. Caroline brings with her 14 years of communications and marketing experience gained from the public, private and charitable sectors.

All three senior managers join King's at an exciting time and bring with them their ability, experience and, most of all, their determination to make a difference.

What do you have planned for this academic year?

I am being very ambitious in our aspirations and I want to cement King's position as one of the country's great schools. We will be drawing up a new school strategic plan for the next 5 years, the early stages of which will include the curriculum review and a tightening up of all academic standards. King's will remain a school that offers the best of both worlds and we will continue our commitment to extracurricular enrichment with plans for a new Sports Centre and Astro turf at Cumberland Street.

Outstanding A Level Results

This year's A Level results were, yet again, outstanding across all areas of the curriculum including the arts, sciences and humanities. In a year when results nationally were at an all time low, the King's grades held fast and saw the vast majority of students gain their first or second choice of university.

The top A*/A grades were achieved in more than 40% of exams, with 20 students achieving three A/A* grades and 40 students receiving AAB or better.

A terrific trio of students achieved four straight A*s: Sean Wilson (left) gained four A*s in Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Chemistry and goes up to Durham to read Engineering; Izzy Bell got the top awards in Art, Chemistry, Biology and Maths and will apply to Oxford or Cambridge to read Biochemistry; and David Ormrod Morley, who got A*s in Maths, Further Maths, Chemistry and Biology and will read Chemistry at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford.



Summer of success for Infant & Junior assessments

Our younger pupils have once again flourished and achieved results that far exceed the national averages. At the end of the Foundation Stage, all our pupils achieved the national target of indicator 6 and more than 50% achieved indicator 9 in all but two areas, surpassing the expectations for their age and development.

At the end of Key Stage 1, our Year 2 children managed to more than double the national averages for all three assessment areas of Maths, Reading and Writing. This is even more impressive when considering the fact that children are not assessed for entry to the Infants. In Key Stage 2, the success continued with all scores well above national averages and many children achieving Key Stage 3 standard.

Principal Caroline Hulme-McKibbin says: "The children and staff have worked tirelessly to ensure that every child has achieved their full potential and we're delighted with these results."



King's is delighted to welcome its first ever Pre-School class of 15 boys and girls. Opened on 1 September, our Pre-School offers parents greater flexibility including half-day, full time and holiday provision.



King's Scholars

King's is particularly proud of its scholars and congratulations go to the following Year 7 pupils who have all been awarded King's Scholarships from September:

**George Connolly,
Hugo Coulson,
Sion Davenport,
Harry Wallace,
George Williams,
Fiona Beeston,
Alice Carter,
Julia Knyba,
Zara Shutt,
Beth Whiteley,
Megan Whiteley
Harry Lyons**
(Music Scholarship).

Sporting boost for Juniors and Girls

The sporting facilities at Fence Avenue have been given an enormous boost with the completion of new netball courts and junior cricket nets, in addition to a junior adventure playground.

Following the establishment of Sport Now! by parents Melanie Toms and Jane Garnett, and their tireless campaigning and fundraising, King's has been able to realise a long-held ambition of improving the sports facilities at Fence Avenue. Dr Simon Hyde says: "We are extremely grateful for the support shown by our parents and their commitment to the school. Without their action, we would not be proudly unveiling such excellent facilities for the benefit of our pupils." Another new addition is our giant mural to commemorate the London 2012 Olympics.

Designed and painted by Infants and Juniors, the mural celebrates the home Olympics and King's very own Sixth Form star Jenni Pinches who was part of Team GB. Friends of King's commissioned the giant 12 metre long and two-and-a-half metre high mural depicting the ancient Olympic motto, "Faster, Higher Stronger", which will be mounted on the outside of the school Sports Hall.



Engineering scholarship for Jake

Young design engineer Jake Robinson has won a prestigious Arkwright Scholarship as the first step on the road to a career in automotive and aeronautical engineering.

Jake has been awarded £600 toward his Sixth Form studies, with King's Design & Technology Department also receiving a further £400. Arkwright Scholarships are respected by leading universities and industrial companies and are supported by top engineering employers such as Rolls Royce, BT, BAE Systems, National Grid, Balfour Beatty, Microsoft and the Royal Air Force.

Jake, who got three A* and five As in his GCSEs, is now studying Maths, Art, Design Technology and Business Studies. He said: "I really like the idea of starting with a simple idea either on paper or on a computer screen and then seeing it through all phases of research and development and into production so it can become a usable product or component part of everyday life. That seems like a really worthwhile career to me."

Global Aspirations

Today's interconnected and interdependent world is placing a new set of demands on young people and those that educate them, as we strive to prepare them with the skills, attitudes and confidence they will need to make the most of the opportunities that present themselves in our global society.

Each year, King's pupils and staff undertake a vast array of educational trips to help provide an international perspective that can often only be attained through visiting different cultures. Over the summer, some particularly noteworthy school trips provided our students with opportunities to build global links, strengthen friendships, discover new talents, and even achieve things that they may not have thought possible.



Canada

There is no doubt that lifelong memories were formed on the senior rugby tour of the Prairies and Rockies. 49 young men and six staff went on the trip of a lifetime, travelling from the East to the West Coast throughout their 15 day trip, and seeing some of Canada's great natural sights.

Taking in both top city and provincial sides, the teams won nine of their ten games, scoring 397 points and conceding only 68.

King's Head of Rugby Guy Mason said: "It was a sporting adventure that cemented friendships, broadened horizons, built bridges and exported the famous King's brand of rugby to Northern America. Jack Sadler emerged as another superb leader of men and due to his many outstanding performances in Canada he will captain the side next season. Johnny Kenny had a brilliant tour and will no doubt wish to continue in this manner as he tries to get back into the England squad.

Florida

King's staff are also eager to be global citizens. King's nurse, Rebecca Murphy, joined Destination Florida, a charity which specialises in holidays for very ill or disabled children aged 7 – 15. Rebecca joined them as a volunteer member of the medical team who accompany the children. The project is very close to her heart, as Rebecca's own daughter visited Florida with the charity two years ago and had a wonderful time.



Jenni Pinches London & Ecuador

Sixth Form student Jenni lived out her life-long ambition of competing in the 2012 Olympics as part of the Women's Gymnastics team. Alongside Beth Tweddle, Jenni and her teammates helped Britain achieve sixth place in the Olympics, its best since World War II. As well as competing, Jenni was also asked by the BBC to commentate on some of the gymnastics finals, alongside Matt Baker and Olga Korbut. Following the Olympic Victory Parade in September, Jenni boarded a plane to Ecuador and is currently volunteering as part of a Camp International programme to build a camp and community Youth Club. As well as helping out with the local community regeneration programme, Jenni will visit the Galapagos Islands before finally returning to King's after half-term.



Alpine Adventure

Year 8 and 9 pupils enjoyed a week of geographical adventure in the French Alps whilst having fun and forming friendships. The Alps in the summer remain truly majestic and the group was fully able to appreciate the outstanding natural beauty from Serre Chevalier and Notre Dame de Bellecombe. The group participated in a wide range of activities including white water rafting, mountain biking, going inside a glacier, and a trip on the Aiguille du Midi cable car which gave a magnificent view of the awe-inspiring Mont Blanc massif.



India

After two years of fundraising, training, planning and a host of injections, the King's Sixth Formers spent a month in India trekking, climbing and working with disadvantaged children in remote communities.

Expedition leader Jim Street said: "King's explorers got a taste of classic India: heat, hill forts, chaotic traffic and elephants wandering across roads alongside colourful markets, as well as seeing magnificent landscapes and witnessing poverty and deprivation on a scale we don't see in the West."

The students used Ladakh, nestled in the Himalayas and bordering Tibet, as a high altitude base for an amazing month of adventure. The first week was spent working in remote schools, taking classes, painting classrooms, creating murals and repairing derelict buildings.

One team then completed the classic Markha valley trek, getting over two 5000m passes and wending their way for 11 days through stunning Himalayan valleys and camping on remote hill-sides.

The other team completed the remote Tso Moriri trek which crosses high passes, deserts and salt flats and finishes at a high altitude lake. Some students then took a rare opportunity to attempt a 6000m peak, Yalung Nong, and despite hail storms, snow and high winds they became the only British school group to get above 6000m this expedition season.

Following the treks, the teams went whitewater rafting on the Indus River, then visited the Taj Mahal and India's golden triangle of Jaipur, Delhi and Agra.



French Alps

Malta

Ladakh



Music in Malta

Less than six hours after the King's Sings concert in July, the Foundation Choir escaped to Malta for its eagerly anticipated, biennial cocktail of sightseeing, sunshine and song. Ancient sites and stunning sea provided a perfect accompaniment to daily concerts, and the choir's varied musical repertoire was much appreciated in wide ranging venues. The memory of sixty teenagers, giving a beautiful, impromptu performance of a cappella choral music in the church at Mosta, is very special indeed.



Sporting Achievements

Junior footballing triumph

King's U11 football team began their season in promising fashion after winning the Macclesfield Primary Schools' Football Tournament for the second year in succession. In a gripping final against St Alban's which went into a penalty shoot-out, King's held their nerve with both Remy Miller and Thomas Davies scoring, resulting in a 2-1 win. Junior Football Coach Mike Walton said: "The Macclesfield Primary Schools' Trophy is our FA Cup and always provides some fabulous matches played in fantastic spirit." The victory means that King's will now represent the Macclesfield District in the Cheshire Cup in the Spring Term.



Pictured from left with Mr Walton are: Tom Davies, Adam Humphreys, Isaac Salisbury, Murray Redpath, Oliver Payne, Jamie Shuttleworth, Remy Miller (Capt), Josh Green and Charlie Ward.



Biathle Champions

Congratulations to Rebecca and Katie Hughes who qualified for the second year to represent Great Britain at the Biathle World Championships 2012, to be held in Dubai. Rebecca is now British U16 Champion and Katie finished second this year behind the current World Champion.

Cricket News

This year, the school lost two stalwarts of the 1st XI, Tom Foreman and Andy Hodgson who finished their school cricket careers and between them scored 4,371 runs including 8 centuries and took 150 wickets over four seasons. Tom was awarded Senior Cricketer of the Year, whilst Andrew was named 1st XI Most Valuable Player (with 1307 points).

Other accolades went to: Adam Siddall, for most improved player senior cricketer; Finlay McCance, U15 cricketer of the year; Will Dowd, U14 cricketer of the year; Harry Broughton; U13 cricketer of the year; and Jos Collier, U12 cricketer of the year.

Whilst the big winner for the summer term was undoubtedly the weather, King's did have an excellent victory over MCC. Pictured are three former King's captains – Alan Day, Dan Isherwood and Jonny Marsden - who were all playing for the MCC against King's 1st XI.



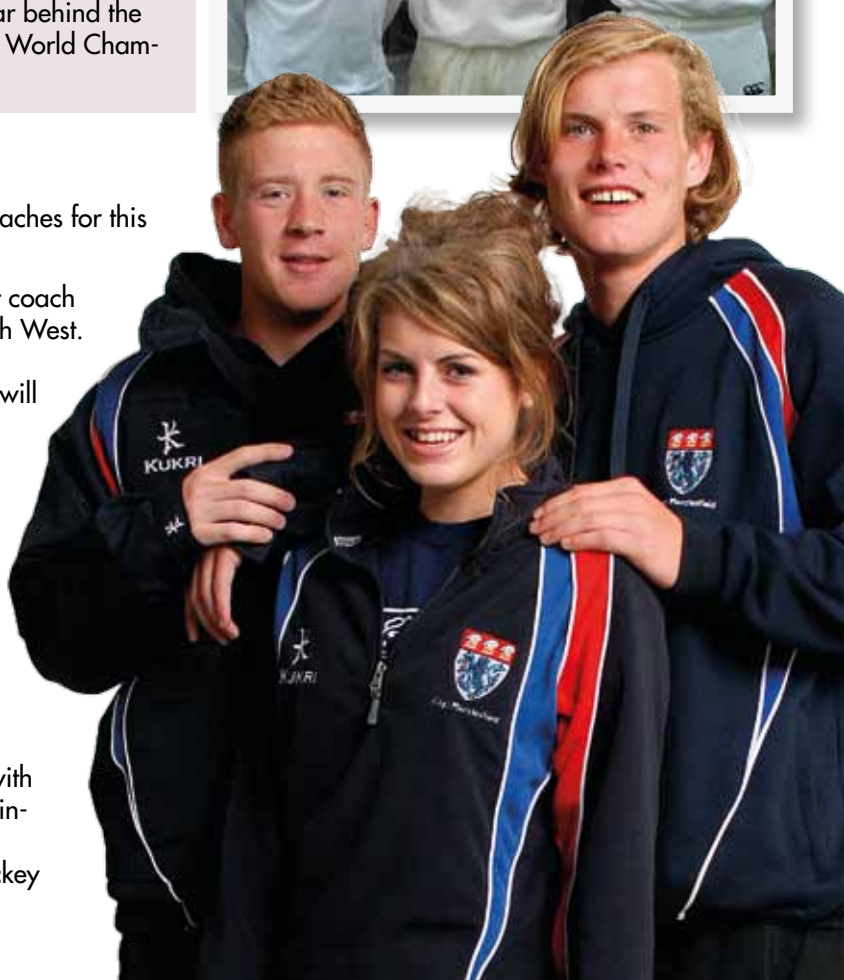
Hockey News

King's is delighted to welcome three new specialist hockey coaches for this season.

Tom Ainsworth (pictured left) is a current player and assistant coach at Bowdon Hockey Club, the premier hockey club in the North West. Tom is a graduate of Leeds Metropolitan University where he achieved an Honours Degree in Sports & Leisure (2009). He will be coaching King's pupils from Year 7 upwards including the Girls' Division and Sixth Form.

Vicky Lomas is a former King's hockey first XI captain and North of England U21 player. For the last three years, Vicky has been part of the National Hockey Association Elite Player Development Programme, a key member of the Cheshire side and a player for Timperley Hockey. Having just completed her A Levels at King's, Vicky is coaching for a year before going up to Loughborough University and her ambition is to represent the full Great Britain team.

Tim Pont (right) is from the Netherlands and will be helping with the junior coaching as well Sixth Form and Girls' Division training. Tim is a player for Alderley Edge Hockey Club and has recently returned from Ghana where he volunteered as a hockey coach.



Leavers' Bursary launched

King's has recently launched a new initiative to create additional bursary places for future generations. The 'Leavers' Bursary', launched in August to the Class of 2012, asks each Year 13 leaver and their parents to consider giving just £2 per month. Dr Hyde explains: "Leaving school is a particularly poignant time for parents and for those pupils embarking on the next stage of their life. Many parents and pupils express their gratitude to me for what the school has provided for them and this fund allows them to mark their departure in a tangible way by contributing to the bursary fund. If everyone in the Class of 2012 responds, it will provide one free place at King's every other year."



One former pupil to sign-up to the scheme is Ellie Johnson who was also lucky enough to have benefited from a bursary herself. She says: "I am really

pleased to have had the opportunity to attend King's. It was a very positive place to be and I enjoyed being taught by encouraging and inspirational teachers. King's allowed me to discover the subjects of Latin and Classical Civilisation and I enjoyed these so much that I am going to Durham to read Classical Past, which would not have been possible had I not gone to King's. I decided to contribute towards the Bursary Scheme so that a student in the future might enjoy and get as much out of their time at King's as I have done."



Cricket

Old Boys Jonny Marsden (2011) and Khalid Sawas (2006) faced each other at the county ground in Derby with Jonny representing Derbyshire 2nd XI and Khalid Lancashire 2nd XI. Both have had excellent seasons: Khalid was Cheshire's leading runscore and will spend the winter playing in Australia; Jonny had a full season at Derbyshire and has now been offered a summer contract by Derbyshire for 2013. Cheshire was also captained by King's former 1st XI skipper James Duffy (2001).

(Photograph by Derek Hastings)

Former Pupils Congratulations:

Edward Beesley has been awarded the degree of Master of Chiropractic with Distinction.

Rugby players **Tom Davenport** and **Jon Keep** both represented Cheshire in the Bill Beaumont County Championship Cup.

Dominic Hall has been awarded the College Prize in Physics and Philosophy at St Hilda's College Oxford.

Ashley Hinchcliffe has graduated with a First Class degree in Architecture from The Bartlett School Of Architecture at UCL.

Howard Mayers secured a First from Nottingham University in Law.

Carl Roberts has received a Masters degree in Mathematics from Warwick University.

Eleanor Strutt is studying singing at the Geneva Conservatoire during her gap year following a successful tour with the Heritage Opera Company

Rick Pool-Jones has been appointed Sporting Director of French professional rugby club Stade Francais.



Former CEO of Lloyds TSB Group, Sir Peter Ellwood, reflects on his school days at King's:

"I think I learned more in my seven years at King's than I realised at the time. I was a rather dreamy boy and drifted through school mostly in a world of my own. Looking back fifty years, my memories are like a kaleidoscope: fragmented and of different colours. The sombre khaki of the Combined Cadet Force, the vivid whiteness of cricket and running kit and the great surprise at being asked to run for the school. The brightness and novelty of the costumes of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas where I was the leader of the school orchestra. The brilliant green of the playing field where the sound of the cutters and the evocative smell of new mown grass drifted through the open windows of the classroom across the Quad on a sunny afternoon.

King's broadened my imagination. Studying Lear widened my perspectives and laid down a good understanding of such a range of actions and emotions that would help me in later years."

Please keep in touch! If you're a former pupil, please let us know what you're up to via formerpupils@kingsmac.co.uk or [facebook.com/kingsinmacc](https://www.facebook.com/kingsinmacc)

Boost to Bursary Fund

Former pupils raised a record £3,000 for the school's Quincentenary Bursary Scheme (QBS) as 64 golfers did battle at Macclesfield Golf Club. Dr Hyde said: "One of the signs of a good school is the loyalty and generosity of its former pupils. I am delighted that so many people are keen to help us preserve access to the school for local people whilst enjoying a great day's golf."

The QBS fund has now raised over £440,000, creating 40 bursaries.



Sir Peter left King's in 1961 and immediately joined Barclays. He was to spend more than 40 years at Barclays, TSB and Lloyds TSB, where he became group chief executive for seven years, before retiring in 2003. He was chairman of ICI from 2004-08 and chairman of Rexam between 2008-12. He is currently a director of Azko-Nobel and his interests outside business embrace family, music, the arts and a wide variety of not-for-profit organisations.

Helping the fight against cancer

During the Autumn Term, our Senior and Sixth Form Divisions are uniting to raise funds for the new School of Oncology at The Christie.

King's parent Simon Hayward has launched the 505050 Challenge to raise £50,000 for the School of Oncology. A sponsored run on 8 September, which was marshalled by King's pupils, helped bring the total amount raised to an incredible 80% of the £50k target.

The next two events for the 505050 Challenge are a Santa Run (December) and a sponsored bike ride (April 2013). King's will also be encouraging parents to buy tickets for Winterfest, with £2 from every ticket going to 505050 Challenge. And King's pupils will be organising a school disco, leavers' hoodies and a gala dinner for parents. Every penny raised will go direct to The Christie School of Oncology, so please get involved if you can. See www.505050challenge.com



Big Workout creates big funds for NSPCC

The Infant and Junior pupils got active recently to help raise money for the NSPCC. Last term Helen and mascot 'Buddy' from the NSPCC visited King's to talk to pupils about the important work of the charity. During her visit she encouraged the children to take part in 'Buddy's Big Workout', an Olympic-themed fundraising event requiring pupils to set themselves the challenge of completing five different activities such as skipping, hopping, walking on stilts, hitting a ball with a racket, step ups and star jumps.

The children collected sponsors and then attempted their challenge with their classmates. Helen later returned to the Infant & Junior Division to inform them that they had raised more than £6,000.

Pictured with Helen from the NSPCC are 'Buddy', Phoebe Shuttleworth and Henry Noble



Congratulations to the following pupils:

Fiona Beeston, who has reached the semi-finals of Stoke's Top Talent.

Equestrian Squad Team members, **Laura Bennett, Kate Garnett, Anja Knudsen** and **Jack Mantel** who have qualified for the National Schools' Finals in October.

Ellie Bird, who has been chosen for the U17 Regional High Performance Programme for England Netball.

King's Cheerleaders, who excelled at the National Schools' Cheerleading Championships this year with all 12 teams achieving either 1st, 2nd or 3rd place.

Alix Davies, Pippa Forsythe & Abigail Johnson, who have progressed to the Hockey Junior Regional Performance Centre North of England.

Emily Jacques, who has gained a place in the Halle Youth Choir.

Jonathan Provis, who was selected for the Greater Manchester JAC Hockey Squad.

Dom Sheratte, who has been appointed Vice-Captain of the England Youth Angling Team.

Adam Russ who has been selected to join the RYA Topper National Intermediate Junior Squad, which is one of two national squads which together represent the best 48 Topper sailors in the UK.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

17 October	Organ Recital by Daniel Moulton 7.30pm Cumberland Street Hall
23 November	Music At Mike's (Jazz Band) 1pm St Michael's Parish Church
24 November	Friends of King's Christmas Fair 1.30pm Cumberland Street Hall
3 December	Chester Carol Service 8.00pm Chester Cathedral
7 December	Charity Fashion Show 7.30pm Cumberland Street Hall
11 December	Service of Nine Lessons and Carols 8.00pm St Michael's Parish Church
14 December	Junior Choir Concert 11am St Paul's Church Term ends (half day)

Former Pupils Association Events

16 November	Annual Dinner at The Hunting Lodge, Adlington Hall
16 January	AGM and free Hot Pot Supper 7.30pm Old Boys' Club, 7 Churchside, Macclesfield

For more information please email: formerpupils@kingsmac.co.uk