



# King's Colours

1502

Summer 2021

The termly newsletter of the King's School in Macclesfield



## Scarecrows invade Tatton!

Boris Johnson isn't just a man of straw to our Infant pupils, he's a true Covid hero ready to be displayed at the Tatton Park Scarecrow Festival.

During May, pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes created their own scarecrows to answer a call for help from the Knutsford stately home. When Tatton's customary Scarecrow Festival at the end of February had to be cancelled, they made an appeal to schools to design and create some Pandemic Superheroes for the rearranged festival over the May/June half term holiday.

Alongside the Prime Minister, the children chose their own Principal, Mrs Cookson, and Infant and Junior

School secretaries Bev Ault and Sally Raw-Rees.

King's Reception Teacher Cecilia O'Doherty said: "It gave us the opportunity to have a good chat about who had done what for us during the Covid crisis and we all felt the Prime Minister deserved a big thank you." Cecilia added: "Then we felt our Principal Mrs Cookson and office heroes Bev and Sally also deserved some praise for having worked so hard to keep us all going."

King's Year 2 pupil Edward Marsden-Smith summed up the fun when asked just what Boris Johnson did for a living, he answered with a grin: "He's a scarecrow of course."

## Talented Alex develops new app for King's

Talented Year 12 student, Alex McCall, has developed a new app for fellow King's pupils. The app, which has been more than 18 months in the planning, testing and rigorous approvals process for Apple, is now fully licenced and can be downloaded for Apple devices from the App Store.

The app is a user-friendly aid for pupils to help them find their way around the school campus.

Although anyone can download the app for free, pupils can sign-in to see a greater amount of information, including where departments and Form rooms are located, as well as where teachers are based.

Alex, who wants to study computer science at university, says: "I realized an app had a lot of benefits for current pupils as well as those that join as new pupils each year. Anyone – including parents - can download the app and see the plan of the campus, but then pupils can log-in and access interactive floor plans showing where classrooms, Form rooms and other facilities are located."

Alex is further developing the App to add more features, such as timings of lunchtime clubs.

**To download the app, scan this QR code:**



SCAN ME!



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## HEAD'S UPDATE

**T**HE return of pupils to school on 8th March, post 'lockdown', was greeted with elation, relief and gratitude. We were very proud of our online provision: pupils enjoyed a full timetable and pastoral programme across all divisions. Confidence increased and inhibitions subsided as happy faces became more regular displays on laptop screens, and pupils engaged well with their lessons.

However, remote learning is hard! It presents challenges for staff and pupils alike, and brings a different intensity to learning that isn't usual with face to face learning. Significantly, remote learning doesn't afford the same opportunities for social interaction; enjoying the company of friends and the simple pleasures of laughter, and this just isn't the same if you're not 'face to face'.

Since March, the return to normality has slowly inched along its path. A significant step was the opening of the Sports Centre Café for use by Sixth Form students. This fantastic facility provides another option for



hungry teenagers throughout the day. Until Easter, the café had been our Covid Testing Centre and more than 3,000 tests were completed – quite the achievement for the range of staff who turned their hand to this task that hadn't previously appeared on any job description!

Another significant step was the return of Saturday sport and some inter-school fixtures. It's been such a joy to see the determined faces of children, proud to represent their school against familiar rivals from the past – the first competitive summer sports fixtures in almost two years!

This term, we have completed both parental and pupil surveys, seeking feedback on a range of areas of school life and we will be sharing the results before the end of term.

At this time of year, we wish our Year 11 and Year 13 pupils well with the outcome of their recently completed assessments. We are also looking optimistically towards September, when we hope pupils will enjoy greater freedoms and be able to wander freely around any area of the site.

**Jason Slack**  
Head of Foundation



## Annabel's Tennis success

King's pupil Annabel Wong was crowned National 11U Tennis Champion over the half-term holiday, after competing in the National Tour at Bradfield against the best young players in the country. She overcame some challenging matches, showing resilience and never gave up.

Earlier, Annabel, who is in Year 6, played her first International Tennis Junior Tour in Wales, winning two out of her three matches, and clocking up some great experience playing against top players from other countries.

## Civic Award for fundraiser Alex

Fundraiser Alex Price is at it again! Alex excelled during the first lockdown last year when he raised over £1000 for East Cheshire Hospice and has received a letter from the Mayor of Macclesfield in



recognition of those efforts. Alex has also been nominated by the Town Council for a Civic Award. For his next fundraising project, Alex and his fellow

Year 6 pupils Austin, Noah and Jack will be undertaking a sponsored relay in June to raise funds for The Christie at Macclesfield. Good luck to Alex and everyone taking part.

# National Award for Innovation at Engineering Awards



An interactive hockey stick has led a team of Sixth Formers to win the National Award for Innovation in the prestigious Engineering Education Scheme.

The six Year 12 students have been working over the last six months under the mentorship of OPUS Technical Director, John Blackwell, to produce a revolutionary new sports training aid. The imaginative young designers produced a prototype and an 80-page report detailing their advances to impress a panel of some of the nation's most creative engineering minds.

Using a micro-computer and Bluetooth technology, materials science and computerised data gathering and analysis, the brilliant young students now have a product that could be developed commercially.

Student and Team Leader Alex McCall, who wants to be a computer scientist, said: "It was first brainstormed in discussions with Mr Blackwell before we took the idea to the Hockey coaches. The concept centred on negative reinforcement, getting the stick to make a noise if it was held incorrectly. We also wanted to send information from the stick

to an app on the coaches' phones detailing how hard the ball was being hit according to each type of stroke. This meant that we needed to fit an Accelerometer sensor and to use conductive paint as well as Bluetooth communication." Max Parks Szymborski, who produced a design on 3D CAD software, added: "it was essential to go back and forth between our team and the hockey coaches to fine tune the product."

John Blackwell said: "This year in particular has been very hard with the lockdown, but the students worked harder and were more focused and organised than ever before, learning new skills to prototype their design and managing the project when they could not meet up face to face. As a country, we have a history of pioneering and innovative engineers and King's Physics department, led by Dr Hartnett, is introducing and inspiring new students to be tomorrow's great British engineers."

• **Pictured below with John Blackwell on screen are** *Abi Breese-Tovey, Max Parks-Szymborski, Emma Graham, Oliver Hall, Aidan Ling, Dr Hartnett and Alex McCall.*



## Dream roles for Year 6...

Year 6 pupils celebrated the joy of life with Shakespeare's quintessentially English comedy '*A Midsummer's Night Dream*.'

Staging the musical version written for children, it was the first large-scale production at the new campus. All 70 young thespians took to the stage to tell the tale of four young lovers who are toyed with by the King and Queen of the Fairies, until true romance finally wins the day. Directed by Miss Costanda, the play had originally been cast before Christmas 2019 with lockdowns preventing rehearsals until this March.

Soulla said: "Sadly, parents were unable to watch live, but we staged two performances for different junior year groups and have shared recordings of the performances with parents."

"The response has been amazing from both staff and pupils. For most of them, it is the first live performance they have seen since the pandemic."

**Pictured above:** *Harriet Bright as Puck in the middle; with Mimi Ross as Oberon the King of the Fairies; Ievan Roberts as Bottom; Charlotte Baxter as Titania, the Queen of the Fairies, Lucy Clegg as Hermia and Jakey Meehan as Lysander.*



# What a ONE-DERFUL Year!

As we approach the first anniversary of moving our 519-year old School to a modern, new campus, we reflect on the school's enormous transformation as well as the year our pupils and staff have experienced. We share their thoughts and views on what changes the move has meant for them...



## MISS LAURA CHRISTIE, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

Laura believes teachers have embraced the fully co-educational structure saying, "it is far more reflective of the outside world. Boys and girls in the classroom together offer greater diversity of thought and I hear a wider range of opinion in group discussion." Miss Christie, who

is also Head of Year 9, added: "For the teaching body, being on one site means there are more colleagues with whom you can share experiences and develop best practice."

Miss Christie also appreciates the upgrade in classroom technology

that came with the £60 million campus: "We now have the very latest interactive whiteboards and a whole range of educational software to enhance lessons. It is a joy to teach here. I love the outdoor classrooms and being able to take classes outside. It's a beautiful setting."

## BEN O'DONNELL, YEAR 11 PUPIL



Current Year 11 pupil and aspiring medical student, **Ben O'Donnell**, says the new school has "enhanced King's sense of community." Ben, who joined in Year 7, said: "A sense of community has always been one of King's main assets, but now we are all on one site it is even stronger. I love that fact that we share the site with the juniors and we are all on this incredible

educational journey together, from the age of 3 in Pre-School to 18 in the Sixth Form. It makes us stronger."

"I also think it's brilliant that we are now fully co-educational. It's just so much more realistic and a much better preparation for life." The Deputy Head Boy added: "I have many great memories of the old school, but on a practical and educational level, the new school is simply miles ahead. The facilities are unbelievable. I love the Sports Centre and have used the fitness centre, swimming pool and martial arts studio. The outdoor learning areas are also really special and bring learning to life."

## STEVE MOORES, HEAD OF CRICKET

**Steve Moores** has been part of the fabric of the King's School both as man and boy. He came to the school aged 11 and rejoined as a member of staff aged 19. He even married his wife Nicola in a marquee on the front field, and all their three children have attended King's. Steve explains: "People expect me to be nostalgic about the old sites, and I miss the history of the old buildings and the front cricket field, which holds special memories for me. However, the difference between the new and old school is immense and overshadows that sense of nostalgia."

"The new school is breath-taking, and I only wish we could have had more of a chance this year to showcase it to the town. We have a fabulous three-lane, indoor cricket centre, which will become a hub for cricket throughout the county when we are finally free of restrictions. We have already enjoyed our first fixtures here against MGS, Cheadle Hulme and King's Chester. The Wilson cricket field will be ready for next season and in front of this incredible new school it will have the feel of the old front field in the town centre. The only difference is that no one will be able to hit balls into the school buildings or onto the road! We already have five cricket pitches ready for use, and when you add the rugby fields and the two new all weather, floodlit pitches you can see the amazing difference."

"As well as the vast array of academic, cultural, extra-curricular and sporting facilities, it's simply so much more practical and allows the school to become fully co-educational. The new school is undoubtedly a better learning environment for the pupils."





## EVE CARTER, DEPUTY HEAD GIRL



Deputy Head Girl and keen hockey player, Eve Carter, says the classroom environment is much more conducive to learning. "We have the very latest technology in the classrooms with so many more functions and the teachers can really dig deep into their subjects. I also love the outdoor classrooms and the new apple orchard with the bee hives.

For sport, we seem to be short of nothing. We have six netball courts, tennis courts, two all-weather hockey pitches, the swimming pool and the dance studio."

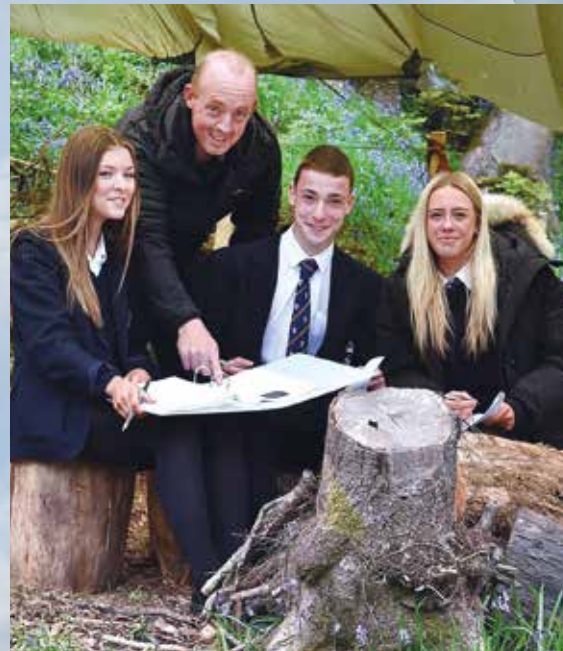
She added "Most importantly, is the atmosphere and the fact that we are now finally fully co-educational. It's much more suited to the modern world and a much better preparation for life. I really don't know anyone, either a girl or a boy, who feels different."

## MR PAUL BARTLE, DUKE OF EDINBURGH MANAGER

King's new rural setting has increased the emphasis on outdoor learning and the campus boasts three bookable teaching spaces, an outdoor amphitheater and gardens. There is also a wetland wildlife area behind the Sports Centre, developed by Year 11 pupils this summer. Member of the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom, Mr Paul Bartle is a great believer in the benefits of outdoor learning: "The outdoor spaces have been booked by a range of departments including English, Religion & Philosophy, Biology, Geography, Chemistry, Physics and Modern Languages. Some of the PHSE and pastoral activities have also taken place in the outdoor classrooms."

Paul added: "It allows pupils and staff to connect with, and appreciate, the natural environment. It brings relevance to lessons and gives pupils space to learn under their own direction and in their own ways. It provides a sensory experience way beyond what we can get within a classroom."

"Our pupils have reacted with huge positivity and enthusiasm. Our extra-curricular clubs and activities have begun to use the spaces too and are already planning how to develop and make the most of the areas in the future."



## CRICKET



On Saturday 1 May, Senior pupils played their first competitive sports fixtures against another school for over 14 months. The cricket fixtures (against Cheadle Hulme) were also the first cricket fixtures in 20 months! All year groups were in action and, by 22 May, the 1st XI had also played their first game (v MGS). These were significant steps for

school sport on the road back to normality and, so far, we have seen some very strong performances. Notable batting achievements have been registered by Fin Nash (93 v CHS U15), Sam Booth (52 v King's Chester U13), Joe Moores (56 v King's Chester U15), Alfie Usher (63 v King's Chester U12 and 51\* v MGS) and Christian Smith (77 v CHS). Charlie Saunders claimed a hat-trick of wickets against MGS U14, whilst Alfie Usher picked up 4 wickets, 2 catches and a run out against MGS U12s. Pupils are already reaping the benefits from the indoor cricket centre and the training over the winter. Over 100 boys have been selected to represent the school this summer and it has been particularly pleasing to see the growing number of girls involved in the lower year groups, as girls' cricket has been added to the summer sport

## EQUESTRIAN ROUND UP

• Reuben Blackhurst and Rory Horne, in Year 7, *(both pictured right)* competed in the Grass Roots Show Jumping competition and both did well, taking multiple podium positions and both qualifying for the Grassroot Regional Championships final in December.

• Lottie Dennett, came 1st on Kelbrook Thriller in Prelim 13 at the National Dressage Qualifier in April. Hattie Lowe, came 8th on Ballyhea Rosey in Novice 28 at the same event, with Matilda Machin, coming 1st on Frankie Forget Me Not in Novice 28 and 3rd in Elementary 50. Lottie also came 2nd on Templehill Jasper at Eland Lodge ODE, qualifying for the British Connemara Pony Society Eventing Championships in September in Oxford.

• King's Dressage Team won the qualifier for the National Final in October 2021.



## TENNIS



Tennis Club has been well attended and the first friendly fixture of the season took place on 15 May against Withington Girls' School. There were some very competitive matches with couples narrowly losing games. Player of the match was Emily Ancell. The boys' first matches were against MGS, with some excellent match-ups and a couple of very impressive 'doubles' victories.

## HOCKEY



Congratulations to Sophie Payne, Poppy Fletcher, Phoebe Woods, Alexa Watkins, Sam Booth, Callum Richardson, Isaac Todd, Walter Lowe and Zac Farrer on being selected for Tensworth U13 hockey. They will continue to train during the summer and have the opportunity to compete in tournaments against other regions.

## SWIMMING

Interest in swimming is booming at King's, with large numbers of Year 7 and 8 children taking part in early morning swimming training. After school Junior training sessions have been well attended too. All our Infant & Junior pupils currently swim as part of their curriculum and are loving the opportunity. In May, a series of year group House Galas generated great interest and some excellent swimming. There were victories for Tatton in Year 3, 5 and 6 and Gawsworth in Year 4, giving Tatton overall victory.

## ROUNDERS

Rounders has been very popular this half-term, with a good turnout from all year groups. The first competitive fixture was against Withington Girls' School in May. It was wonderful to see over 80 girls from Years 7-10 out enjoying rounders and competing for the school as the matches finished "honours even". Players of the games were: Olivia Bray, Grace Ingleby, Imogen Sheppard, Poppy Fletcher, Sienna Given, Samantha Morrison, Sofia Ogden and Lydia Hine.



## Bursary Fund golf day success



This year's Alan McInnes Memorial Golf Day was played on a glorious afternoon at the beautifully tree lined Prestbury Golf Club. The event honours one of Macclesfield's most famous sporting sons, a former King's pupil and teacher himself, who played for Salford and coached Wigan to the Rugby League Championship and was a hugely respected sporting all-rounder.

The event raises funds for the Bursary Fund, which enables pupils from lower income backgrounds to study at King's. The event saw 64 players pit their wits against the challenging championship course, with The Mayor of Macclesfield Town Councillor David Edwards presenting the prizes.

Former King's pupil and teacher Tom Parfett-Manning fittingly led his team to victory with 90 points on a tough day and the skipper modestly attributed their success to "Good luck and good team work."

Alan's daughter Nicola Moores, who organised the event, said: "My father came to King's when it was a grammar school and his family would not have been able to afford fees. He knew only too well that his love of cricket and rugby was nurtured in that environment and that he may not have gone on to have the career he loved so much without that wonderful start in life. That's why continuing to develop and support the Bursary Fund was so important to him."

In April, we launched our new online network **King's Connect** for our alumni community. Former pupils and staff can sign up for free and access a range of news stories, events booking information, clubs, photo galleries and much more. To join, scan the QR code or visit:  
[www.connect.kingsmac.co.uk](http://www.connect.kingsmac.co.uk)



## Wedding bells for former pupils



Congratulations to former pupils Jennifer Pinches and James McIlveen, who got married in June. The childhood sweethearts met whilst in King's Sixth Form, when Jenni was also competing for Team GB in the London Olympics. The happy couple were originally due to tie the knot in June 2020, but plans were delayed due to Covid. We wish the wonderful couple many, many years of happiness together.

**Rubi Ambrey-Brosnahan**, who has been accepted into the Royal Northern College of Music's weekend programme for oboe and piano from September 2021.

**Madi Baxter**, (pictured) who has been selected for the U15 Leeds Rhino Netball Superleague Pathway.



**Ella Bray**, who has been selected for U15 Manchester Performance Centre in Hockey.

**Scarlett Brough, Honey Dickinson, Sophie Fletcher, Lara Tabachnik** and **Georgia Wilman**, who have been selected for U17 Manchester Performance Centre in Hockey.

**Ollie Davies**, who has been selected to train with the Sale Sharks U16 Academy.

**Fraser Day**, who passed his grade 5 Piano with Merit.

**Bethany Henshaw**, who passed her Grade 8 Piano exam with Merit.

**Minnie Jansen**, who has been selected for U15 Manchester Performance Centre in Hockey.

**Ellie Jepson**, who has been offered a place on the Royal Ballet School's Summer Programme.

**Amelie Manson**, who passed her grade 3 flute exam with Merit.

**Edward Marsden-Smith**, who passed his Pre-Grade Higher Piano exam with Distinction.

**Sam Worthington**, who has been selected for the U18 Sale Sharks Performance Squad for two consecutive years.

Former pupils **Nat Stevens** and **Archie Phillips**, who have been selected for the GB Hockey Elite Development Programme.

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