



# Herald

All the news from The King's School, Chester

Inside... from politics to poetry, and from sports success to eco-schools status – it's all happening at King's.



## Hitting the high notes...

to help raise funds for  
our neighbours



## Triple triumph for our concerts in the community

### A festive fundraiser

Earlier this year, The King's School Wind Band, Sinfonia and School Choir participated in a school Lunchtime Concert to raise money for Chester Aid to the Homeless and Dogs Trust.

This was a fantastic opportunity for the musicians involved to display their hard work and preparation which was carried out over the Michaelmas term, and to benefit local homeless people and abandoned animals over the busy Christmas period.

**Over £200 was raised for each charity – a tremendous effort by all.**



### St Werburgh's charity concert

Our Senior Musicians have been helping with an appeal for the neighbouring Catholic High School.

The Big Band, Senior String Orchestra and Madrigal Choir were invited to perform at the wonderful venue of St Werburgh's Catholic Church in Chester city centre in March to raise funds for the Catholic High School Appeal.

The internationally acclaimed Chester-born organist Mr Roger Fisher opened the programme with the fabulous *Toccata and Fugue in D Minor* by JS Bach. The concert included the *Telemann Viola Concerto* featuring William Tyson (U6ER) which

was flawlessly performed by the Senior String Orchestra (directed by Adrian Rushforth) followed by madrigals and chansons beautifully sung by the Madrigal Choir (directed by Victoria Latifa). The finale featured the ever-popular Big Band (directed by Danny Ortiz) playing a wide selection from their repertoire, including a Michael Bublé number, creating a perfect ending to a very successful and enjoyable evening.

**The event raised £1,100 towards the appeal. Many thanks and congratulations go to the performers who took part.**

### Music to their ears

Following the successful Easter Concert on the last day of the Lent term, Schola Cantorum, Chamber Orchestra and the Senior String Orchestra gave a concert at Chester Cathedral in April.

There were three substantial works in the programme; William Tyson (U6ER) gave a memorable performance as

soloist in Telemann's *Concerto for Viola and Strings*, and this was followed by Haydn's final major orchestral work – his *Symphony No. 104 "London"*. The second half featured Rutter's evocative and beautiful *Requiem*, sung by Schola Cantorum, including solos from Zara Fyfe (U6CH) and David Daly (09 leaver). The whole concert was a magnificent achievement for all involved.





**BONJOUR!**

**GUTEN  
TAG!**

**¡HOLA!**



## Exchange students enjoy a warm welcome in Europe

The Modern Languages Department has had a very busy time, spending a couple of weeks on Language Exchanges in three different parts of Europe!

19 pupils spent a week in Avignon, France, as part of an exchange programme run by King's and the Lycée Aubanel. They spent the week as guests in the home of their French exchange partners' families.

During the week, the pupils spent some time at school with their partners and visited famous landmarks such as Arles Roman amphitheatre and the Camargue region. They also explored typical villages in Provence and completed a high rope adventure course in the Vaucluse. The proposed return visit from the French students was, unfortunately, postponed due to the "Volcanic Ash" problem, but King's pupils will play host to their French friends when they visit Chester in September.

Also in the Easter holidays, the German exchange took place with 10 pupils from 3rd and 4th year visiting Leipzig.

The exchange was with pupils from the Evangelisches Schulzentrum, Leipzig. Some time was spent in school with partners. The group also had a walking tour of Leipzig, visited the historic city of Dresden, had a tour of the infamous Oflag IV C, otherwise known as Colditz Castle, and spent a day in Berlin, visiting the sights.

Earlier in the year, pupils learning Spanish paid a visit to Ronda, a beautiful and historical small town in the hills above Marbella. The group visited Seville and Granada – taking in the Alhambra Palace. They even managed to get themselves in the local Ronda

newspaper and on the local television news!



## Stateside snow and sights for ski trip students



In addition to skiing the group visited the local cinema, went tenpin bowling and toured a "Ben and Jerry's" ice cream factory.

The party finally transferred to Boston for an overnight stay where their evening meal was taken in "Cheers" bar. The following day was spent sightseeing and visiting the ship Victory, Harvard University and Quincy market.

The group returned safely, tired and "injury-free" back to Manchester after an exciting ten days in USA.



A total of 35 students and four members of staff have just returned from a week of skiing and sightseeing in the USA.

They visited New York, taking in all the sights including the Empire State Building, Ground Zero and Central Park. After a day and night in New York, the group transferred to Stowe where they skied for five days. The skiing conditions varied throughout the week from wet and grey to brilliant sunshine but all skied well, improving in technique and confidence as the week progressed.



## Champions of the Cheshire Book Quiz? Take it as read...

**Four pupils in the Removes; Catriona Hogg (RmIR), Erin Hollingworth (RmMT), Adam Sawney (RmGA) and Alex Tan (RmIR), are the new champions of the Cheshire Schools' Book Quiz.**

This is the first year that King's has entered the quiz, which is open to all schools in Cheshire. Over 30 schools took part, with heats taking place within each school. Questions were based on six set books and on reading in general.

The team qualified as one of the top four schools to take part in the live final at the St Mary's Centre

in Chester in May. They were up against Merchant Taylors' (Girls), St Thomas More RC School and The Queen's School. It was a very close and exciting final, which King's managed to clinch right at the end through great use of the buzzer.

The pupils were each rewarded with book tokens and a cup for the school to keep for the year.



This is a remarkable achievement for these four pupils. They have shown, not only that they are avid readers, but that they are capable of retaining detailed information about the books they read. The quiz is open to pupils in Removes and Shells, so hopefully the same team will be able to defend their title successfully next year.



## Jon Mayhew visit inspires our budding writers

The library was very fortunate to host a visit from author Jon Mayhew in April. Jon had just published his first book, 'Mortlock', as part of a three book deal with Bloomsbury. The book is receiving excellent reviews, including being the Observer's children's book of the month.



Jon spent an hour talking to all pupils in the Shells and answering their many and varied questions.

The talk focussed on traditional ballads which inspired the book, and the goriness of these tales certainly captured the pupils'

attention. Jon also talked about the excitement of finally getting published after years of hard work perfecting his craft, and is sure to have inspired any budding writers.

The book signing in the library was also very successful with many pupils (and a few members of staff) purchasing a personalised copy of the book, and having a chat with Jon about his work.

## Smart Movers – chess success at every level

**Chess continues to thrive and grow at King's – Spring saw success with 16 students qualifying for the Regional Mega Final of the British Land Challenge Chess Championships.**

All achieved first place in their groups: James Carr (U6SW) – U18, Marvin Hayes (5MP) – U16, Davin Menon (4VL) – U15, Emily Moss (4CM) – U15 and Sam Arshad-Roberts (3AI) – U14. Susan Gorman (3AI) and Rhys Dowinton (3MG) in the U14 age group were both runners up. All of these students, together with Tim Pemberton (L6JS) in the U17 competition, have gained enough points to qualify for the North of England Giga Final later this year.

In the prestigious Yateley Manor National Schools' Chess Championships, King's were runners up to Nottingham High School in the North Wales, Cheshire, North Midlands and Points East Zone.

In June the school was awarded the Northern Counties Chess Union Schools' award, 2010 for its promotion of Chess in the region.

King's students have also continued to play in County and National teams this year.



## We're going green – setting off for Eco-Schools status



During the Lent and Summer terms, Geog Soc began in earnest to work towards gaining Eco-Schools status for the King's School. Geog Soc wants King's to achieve this award as it promotes greater whole school environmental sustainability.

The pupils have devised an action plan covering several areas: Energy use, Waste and Recycling and Global Awareness. Geog Soc are going to launch a 'Mike Says...' Campaign to raise pupil awareness of environmental strategies/issues relevant to the King's community.

Michael Collins (L6JK) volunteered to be the 'face' of the campaign and over the Summer term posters and photos carrying eco messages will appear around the school. 'Mike says switch off the lights', 'Mike says buy Fair Trade', 'Mike says recycle your rubbish' are some examples of the campaign. Geog Soc is open to all pupils from Removes to the Sixth Form and runs weekly on Thursday lunchtimes in Room 24.





## Question Time

### for local politicians

First time voters from King's and other schools in the City of Chester constituency were thrust into the media spotlight days before the General Election in May at a 'Question Time' event hosted by the school. In the finest traditions of the department, the U6 politicians were keen to play an active role in the campaign so invitations were issued to the main parties standing in the City of Chester.



After much hard work, hundreds of phone calls and as many emails, a panel consisting (in ballot paper order!) of Tom Barker (Green Party), Lizzie Jewkes (Liberal Democrats), Stephen Mosley (Conservative party, and now our new MP) and Allan Weddell (UKIP) took to the stage.



They were joined by the authoritative academic voice of Professor Bill Jones, formerly of Manchester University and now Liverpool Hope, with Mr Heap in the chair. Incumbent MP Christine Russell was unable to attend due to other campaigning commitments. Only three hours before the event began it was confirmed that the BBC North West Tonight cameras were going to be in attendance which dramatically raised the stakes for the candidates. Questions provided by the audience gave the candidates some difficult moments and debate was at times good humoured, feisty and enlightening.

Perhaps the most thrilling moment for politics anoraks was to hear students from around the constituency arguing with great fluency about the need for electoral reform. Thanks must go to Mrs Titmuss for helping to make the event so professional and Sixth Form students Ben Lloyd, Jay Thomas and George Rankin for their help both on and before the night. Debate carried on over refreshments with the candidates being put on the spot by audience members who hadn't had a chance to contribute to the main debate. Excited phone conversations, texts and emails flew around as the news report went out later in the evening (you can catch it on YouTube 'King's Chester Question Time BBC' or from the link on the school website). Who says young people aren't interested in politics?



## Katie's prize-winning poetry shows real 'Promise'

The Christopher Tower Poetry Prizes, launched in 2000, offer young people a major opportunity to write poetry. Each year, students between the ages of 16-18 years are asked to submit poems on a set theme, which this year was *Promises*. Sixth Former Katie Procter's entry was put on the 'long list' and her poem will be available to read online soon.

Based at Christ Church College, Oxford, the prizes have rapidly established themselves as the most prestigious poetry awards in the UK for this age group, offering a first prize of £3,000. This year's judges were published poet, Stephen Romer, Professor of Poetry at the University of Glasgow, Michael Schmidt and English lecturer at Oxford University, Peter McDonald.

Previous judges have included Simon Armitage, Andrew Motion and Philip Pullman, making this a tremendous achievement indeed. Katie (L6SD) is a regular member of the King's Writers' Group run by English teacher, Ms Hayley Brown and is applying to read English at University.



## Cadets glide into a new experience



**In May, seven pupils who are members of The King's School Combined Cadet Force RAF Section spent a day at The Midland Gliding Club and had their first taste of gliding.**

The Section goes to RAF Woodvale approximately four times a year for Air Experience Flying in Grob Tutors and to complete Gliding Induction Courses in powered gliders. The day at The Midland Gliding Club was the first of what we hope will be regular visits, which have been organised to supplement our usual flying allocation. The added bonus is that the gliders at The Midland Gliding Club are of the winch-launched variety so the cadets can have a completely different experience of gliding.

In the Michaelmas term, Ben Moss (L6KS) completed his Air Cadet Pilot Scheme, which involves 12 hours of

free flying training including the opportunity to fly solo, in Dundee, Fife, and received an extremely positive report at the end of his course. In the Lent term we learned that both Graham Bendall (L6KS) and James Edholm (L6KS) have also been selected for the Air Cadet Pilot Scheme.

There are almost 10,000 CCF (RAF) cadets in the UK but there are less than 50 places available on the scheme each year, so for three members of The King's School CCF (RAF) to be chosen for this award in the space of two years is an incredible achievement.

## Watch the birdy!

### Nature caught on camera

Over the last two months, the whole school has enjoyed watching the family life in our nestboxcam. A pair of blue tits built a nest, the female laid and incubated 10 eggs and finally they have successfully raised seven young. We're pleased to report that they're now learning to fly.



It has delighted all as they pass by the large screen outside lab 38 on their way to and from lessons. In addition, we have also seen the return of Henrietta (mallard) and partner, who hatched 11 ducklings beside the pond that we created and now feels free to come and go, closely followed by all, in and out of school!



## Andrew puts his name on the map

Andrew Gerrard (RmMT) has won an Ordnance Survey competition. Andrew was one of 12 lucky winners who will enjoy an overnight stay and day out in Taunton with the Field Studies Council in the summer holidays.

## Blazing a trail down under...

A Chester resident kindly sent in this photograph of one of our blazers which was found in an Art Deco shop in Napier, North Island of New Zealand. The blazer took pride of place at the front of the shop and was for sale for £85!

Are there any more King's blazers in far flung places?

Do let us know if you spot our blazer anywhere else on your travels...





## King's Juniors follow the yellow brick road



The Junior School have recently performed The Wizard of Oz. Involving all the J2 children, the traditional "J2 play" lived up to the usual high expectations of previous productions!

Teacher, Miss Jan Anderson adapted L. Frank Baum's story to give every child a speaking part. Supported by Year 6 pupils backstage and in the percussion band, together with ex-Junior School Sixth Formers on lighting and sound, the wonderful musical extravaganza delighted audiences!

**The high standard of performance from all the children, some as young as eight years old, was truly outstanding.**

## Fourth Year make the leap of faith!

Plas Menai National Watersports Centre was the location for a challenging residential course for our J4s in the Summer term. From the moment King's arrived, the Menai Strait beckoned. Wet suits, in a variety of colours, were donned by the pupils and... so to battle.

Rafts were built, sailed, capsized and sunk; kayaks were steered along the fantastic coastline and Miss Anderson and Mrs Gibson took the helm of the power boat – dangerous stuff indeed!



The highlight of this course was, as always, the team spirit which was nurtured both on the water and on land. The pupils were responsible for checking their partner's harness and held safety ropes on the climbing wall. Words of encouragement and advice were given to the brave soul who was 10 metres up and about to do the infamous 'Leap of Faith' – have a look at the photograph accompanying this article and do log on to the website to view more photographs of the wonderful experience which is Plas Menai.



## If you go down to the woods...

J1 recently enjoyed an exciting day developing team building skills in Delamere Forest.

On arrival, children split into groups of three for a morning of orienteering. Following a picnic lunch, the afternoon's activities included several very unusual games. Nose jousting was a great favourite. A small piece of masking tape was stuck to the end of each nose and the aim of the game was to try and

collect everyone else's tape – without using hands! 'Nightline' was an activity which required blindfolded children to hold onto a rope and follow their leader along a ziz-zag path through the forest. Other challenges included 'Ball Ring', 'Electric Fence' and running together under a giant skipping rope. The sun shone and great fun was had by all.







Above: Connie with her haul of 6 'firsts' and 2 'thirds' at the championships.

## Connie makes a big splash

Connie McClelland (J4H) produced an outstanding performance in the Cheshire Swimming Championships.

She was placed first in Cheshire at 50m Butterfly, 50m Backstroke, 50m Freestyle, 20m Backstroke, 200m Freestyle and 100m Individual Medley. Connie produced new County records in the following events: 50m Butterfly, 50m Backstroke, 200m Backstroke, 200m Freestyle and the 100m Individual Medley.

Following these races, Connie has been rated as 3rd in England at the 200m Backstroke and 6th at the 200m Freestyle.



## Well-travelled... and well-read!

**This year's Extreme Reading Competition proved Junior School pupils find time for a good book no matter where they are.**

Photographs showed them reading on beaches, on ski slopes, in cars, boats, planes and with famous personalities – dead and alive! Judging was extremely difficult and several Highly Commended certificates were awarded. The overall winners were:

- J1: Carmen Boyd**  
*reading in several London locations*
- J2: Emma Giddis**  
*reading in front of the Taj Mahal*
- J3: Amelia Standing**  
*reading on a chair lift*
- J4: James Wynn-Edwards** *reading whilst balancing on an elephant's trunk*

## Even more success in the pool...

### Chester Primary Schools' Gala

In June, two boys' and two girls' teams from the Junior School entered the Chester Primary Schools' Gala held at the City Baths. This is always a popular event and a number of schools from the local area enter each year.

It was a very successful evening as all four teams reached the finals. The boys came 1st and 2nd and the girls came 2nd and 4th.

### ESSA Primary Schools' Gala

For the first time in the history of the Junior School, the girls' swimming team, consisting of Connie McClelland, Isobel Wild, Jennifer McDonald, Natasha Groome and Jessica Lee, have qualified for the ESSA National Finals for Primary Schools in both the Medley and Freestyle Relays. This follows their success earlier in the year when they competed in the regional finals finishing in first place in both events. King's will now represent the North West in the national finals to be held in Sheffield.

## What a performance!

'A Celebration of Pupils' Performance in Speech, Music and Drama was a great success and displayed the many talents possessed by JS pupils within the Performing Arts. Along with the orchestra, choir and some talented soloists, for whom the event marks their first public performance, there was also representation from various other aspects of 'performance' including extracts from the J2 play 'The Wizard of Oz' and the 'Chester Festival'.



## Reading raises vital funds

Junior School children raised a splendid total of £1770.50 through this year's Readathon – well done everyone! The money will all go to help sick children.



## Rowing for Britain in Munich

James Kinsey (U6SW) and Sam Wilson (U6CH) were selected for the Junior GB squad to row in Munich. Their training started back in February with the gruelling long distance trials in pairs on the featureless river in Boston.



King's fielded four rowers in the trials and produced solid results of 3rd and 4th out of a total of 45 top junior pairs. This resulted in invitations to the next set of trials, a four-day set of punishing seat races in an attempt to produce a ranking of the country's top athletes at the National Water Sports Centre in Nottingham. James and Sam were selected for the squad of 14 oarsmen to be sent to Munich with Ollie Holt (U6LB) and Inigo Atkin (U6CH) only narrowly missing out.

In Munich, the boys had their first international race early on Saturday morning in a coxless four and were up against crews such as Germany. Unfortunately, the racing didn't go as planned and the squad came in 5th place in the semi-final. The last race of the day on Saturday was the VIII.

With teammates from prestigious schools such as Eton, BMS and Radley, the GB squad won the race by an encouraging margin of one length, producing a positive end to the day in a one-on-one against Spain.

On Sunday, after cruising through the semi-final in 2nd place in the VIII, they showed some fighting spirit in a gruelling final where GB were in last place after the first 500m. They slowly clawed back the lead, against a strong German VIII only to lose finally by three quarters of a length to 1st place, achieving 3rd place and a bronze medal.

All four boys now continue their quest for a GB vest this summer with final trials in July. Before then they will be rowing in the King's School 1st VIII as it embarks on its challenge to race at the National Schools Regatta at the end of May and the world renowned Henley Royal Regatta in early July.



## Old boy, Mike is on course for the Boat Race

**Ex-King's pupil, Michael Thorp was one of the youngest members in the boat race squads this year.**

Competing in the Goldie crew (Cambridge), Mike (19) an ex-King's School Chester oarsmen, competed and won in the reserve Boat race.



Mike has continued his excellent form since leaving the King's School, where he was a key member of the 1st VIII and won a gold medal in the Junior European Rowing Championships in 2008. He is on a three year course at Cambridge and will no doubt have his sights set on blue in next year's race.





# King's crews hit gold in Ghent

**Sixty pupils and eight coaches headed for Ghent, Belgium in preparation for the summer regatta season...**



**After four days of training and preparation on the lake, the crews were ready to take on their European counterparts in the Ghent International Spring Regatta. The event, held over two days is a five lane, 2000 metre race against opposition and the clock. Over 20 crews competed on both days from the King's School Rowing Club.**

On the boys' side, the 1st VIII won the junior men's Vllls on both days, crowning them as champions as well as winning the Belgium



National Championships. The senior squad continued to show strong form, winning the coxless fours event on both days and picking up silver medals in the coxless pairs event. The J16 squad shone in the coxed fours event on the Saturday, winning the event and



beating opposition, which were up to two years older than them in the 21 crew event.

On the girls' side, the 1st VIII came 3rd on both days in the women's open Vllls event and competed well in the coxless fours event. The J15 squad also showed some quality on both days, with the girls' J15 VIII producing a season best row on the Saturday, the boys' 'A' J15 VIII produced their best effort in the last race of the weekend, coming 4th overall in the U18 Vllls event.

In total the club returned with five gold, one silver and four bronze medals from the weekend.



## King's hit the Forty Club for 6!

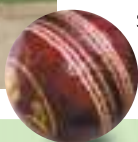
**King's welcomed the Forty Club in May. This annual event is always a highlight in the cricket calendar.**



Founded in 1936, the Forty Club aim is to 'take cricket to the schools' and offers fixtures against experienced cricketers, to encourage school players to play the game to the highest standards of behaviour and performance in the best spirit of the game. King's boast their strongest 1st XI for many years and, knowing this, the Forty Club put King's into bat, scoring 247 for 3 from 47 overs. The confident King's XI took the field and blazed through the XL club line-up, bowling the visitors out for 89 runs.

Andy Leech (U6LB) scored 79 not out and Joe Benson (L6JS) scored his maiden school century, finishing 103 not out. In other news Kate Coppack has been a regular in the 2nd XI this season.

She has also represented the school's 1st team at U17 level in their victory over Wilmslow HS in the National U17 Cup.



Her consistent, controlled bowling has been a key feature in the success of the senior teams and she follows in the footsteps of her elder brother Glenn, who has kept wicket for the 1st XI for three seasons. He also kept wicket when Kate bowled in the recent 1st XI game against Rydal. She therefore becomes the first girl to represent The King's School in 1st XI cricket.

## Teams on tour – sports success in Europe

Pupils enjoyed two very successful sports tours in April. The Senior Hockey players toured Holland, playing games against top-level opposition KHGC (the current Dutch Premier League Leaders), HDM and Pijnacker, over three days.

In addition to this, they watched a premier league hockey match and met current GB captain, Barry Middleton and Young World Player of the Year, Ashley Jackson. The boys received three mornings of top quality coaching by current England International Simon Egerton, followed by competitive matches in the afternoons. Combined with sightseeing trips round The Hague and Delft, the trip was a huge success and enjoyed by all.

U13 Netball and U13/U14 Football teams travelled to Marbella to receive professional coaching and play matches against strong opposition. The girls' netball team performed particularly well against older teams

from both the UK and Gibraltar, recording a notable victory against Durham School.

The boys were lucky enough to play football against Malaga's academy teams and, although defeated, they performed wonderfully well. Matches against local team San Pedro were more evenly matched with the U13 squad winning a thrilling match 3-2, the U14 team drawing 1-1. The pupils also watched a Primera Liga game between CF Malaga and Tenerife.



## Fencers' first strike hits silver



The King's School's Fencing team won silver at Cheshire High School Fencing Tournament in May. King's were the newest team to the tournament and this was their first competition.

In the finals, the King's team fenced against last year's winners Tarporley High School, who were much more experienced fencers and won 3:2. Special praise goes to the effort of Rosemary Lavender (3AI) who scored 15 points running in her fight, changing the score from 3:18 to Tarporley High to 20:19 to King's.

The trophy and the gold medals had to be decided in team captains' fights. Oliver Bradley (4VL) faced a much more experienced Bishop's captain Marco Simioni and in a very tense fight Marco won gold for Bishop's.

The King's silver medallists were: Rosemary Lavender, Luke Williams (4CM), Oliver Bradley, Oliver Berry (RmCC), Bede Timpson (RmSC), Josh Roberts (RmCC), Adam Young (3DB), Sara Ashworth (3MG), Harry Ashworth (5MP) and Jack Stirrup (4AC).



# Great try! Senior rugby squad step up to the mark

The senior rugby squad went from strength to strength this year and were able to be coached to a level not seen with any team previously. The level of commitment and enjoyment in learning and playing this most complicated of team sports was a delight.

The experienced players in the team were extremely helpful and patient as the team was developed around them. The newcomers listened, trained very hard and came on rapidly.

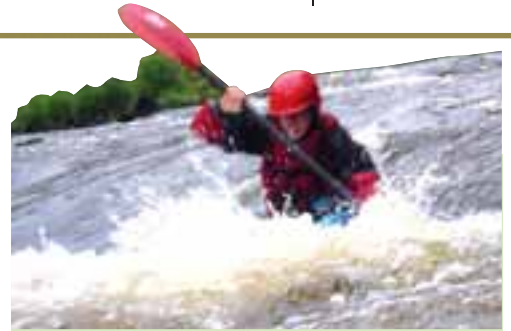


The season started with a fine win over Hulme Grammar School in which King's played some of the best rugby of the season. Other notable moments include wins against Christleton and Hulme again in very closely fought games, but the most impressive thing about the season was the level of commitment and dogged determination to continue playing with passion and pride until the final whistle went, even when up against much better sides.



The success of the senior set-up will hopefully continue thanks to the work being done by parent coach Royan Anthony with the UI4 team. Their nine games ended with seven victories and only two losses, each to established rugby schools Stockport GS and St Ambrose College, the latter in the Quarter Final of the Cheshire Cup.

The win in the Emerging Schools' tournament at the start of the year, without conceding a try, demonstrates the potential of the team and it is hoped that this success will continue over the next four years.



## Rapid improvement for white water beginners

Three Upper Sixth and two Lower Sixth students decided that their Summer Games option would be white water kayaking. They learned many skills over the five weeks of lessons and became pretty competent paddlers on grade 2 white water.

They approached the rapids nervously but with determination and soon they were happily playing in river features, surfing waves and running rapids. They achieved this with some skill. While they had many swims during the weeks, they became more rare and towards the end, after minimal coaching, the students were rolling their kayaks. This is an amazing feat and a difficult skill.

Mr Steve Parry coached them and thoroughly enjoyed their company, humour and courage throughout the course as they progressed in this most difficult, adrenaline-fuelled and addictive of outdoor sports.



## Individual successes



# Sam and Cameron saddle up for success

Cameron Thompson (3AI) and Sam Ecroyd (ShRA) have had a tremendous amount of success in equestrian events this year.

Cameron Thompson attended elite pony squad training at Bishop Burton College, Beverley, in April. This training helps to select the squad and then the team which will represent GB at the European Championships to be held this year in the UK at Bishop Burton. (Great Britain has the best record in this event in showjumping and was unbeaten at championship level for nine consecutive years until last year). This was intense training under the eyes of team trainer and selectors. Cameron was honoured to be

included as his top pony is only a novice, whereas the other team members were more experienced and already international standard.

Cameron's invited pony was Bonds Glen, a nine year-old chestnut roan known at home as 'big headed Bob'. He did win 'Novice Pony of the Year, 2009' at the Pony of the Year Show, was placed in the newcomers' final at the Horse of the Year Show, 2009 and he also qualified for the Junior C class final, to be held on the hallowed turf of Hickstead this year.

behind the other winning Cheshire rider, Darby Ward and the phenomenal 'More than Milton'. Cameron won Championships at the Pony of the Year Show, the biggest pony show in the World, with 700 ponies competing over five days, and the Scope Festival, the largest showjumping event in UK, to crown his best ever year. Cameron went on to represent his country as a member of the English 138cm team at the Home Pony International Competition in Cheshire at South View Equestrian Centre. A feat he had managed on a borrowed 128cm pony, but not one he expected to do again on a borrowed 138cm pony!

Cameron and Bonds Glen have also qualified for both newcomer and foxhunter finals at the Horse of the Year Show this year, both at first qualifier of the year which is a fantastic achievement.

Sam Ecroyd has also had a very successful year in Eventing. His pony Mazing, which he has brought on from a five year-old novice, did



Last year, again at the Horse of the Year Show which is the most famous horse show in the world, Cameron came 3rd in the 138cm (height of the pony) Championship with Dinky Diva, jumping double clear in 0.4secs





really well – winning and being placed at the 90cm and 100cm British Eventing classes. These classes are the first rung of affiliated Eventing in which children compete on equal terms with adults. This was the first year in which Sam was eligible to compete at this level. He qualified for the Badminton Grassroots Championship at Badminton for this year and was the youngest boy competing. He also won the Pony Club Novice Eventing Championships which was a national championship against the whole of the Great Britain and Ireland Pony Club.

Last autumn, Sam got two new ponies with a view to competing at the highest level possible in Eventing, where his ultimate goal is to represent Britain in the European Championships. Sam has worked very hard with his ponies over the winter often getting up before school to ride them and has formed

a close partnership with both of them.

Sam has now competed in four Pony Trials and been placed in each one with each of his ponies – a tremendous achievement given that his competitors can be up to three years older than him. His next challenge is to compete at Brand Hall, a three day event and the final selection trial. These trials consist of an Intermediate/Elementary standard dressage test, a 1.10m - 1.15m showjumping course and a 1\* cross country course about 3,000m long.

Only six children are selected from the Pony Trial classes, so we wish him well in this.

# Bravo!

## Young stars take the stage in professional shows



A whole host of pupils throughout the school have been performing in various professional shows this year, some in very large venues such as The Opera House and Palace Theatres in Manchester and North Wales Theatre in Llanduduno. From *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Whistle Down the Wind* to *Britain's got Talent* and *Mary Poppins*, these talented actors and actresses have auditioned to get their parts in these professional shows and have been entertaining audiences of thousands! They include: James Brannigan (J1), Charlie Clarke (J2), Thomas Bailes (J2), Patrick Timpson (J3), Edward Ramsey (J4), Catriona Hogg (RmIR), Harriet Fisher (RmSC), Philippa Inkster (RmCC), Stanley Parker (RmSC), Bede Timpson (RmSC), Finn Abberton (3DB), Isobel Reid (3TK), Georgina Inkster (4VL), Josh Smith (4CM) and Olivia Titmuss (4FV).

## William is a GE Star student

**William Moreland (U6DY) has been awarded a GE Star Award of \$3500 to contribute to his first year's university education costs. The school has also received \$500.**

The GE Star Awards are open to children of GE current and ex-employees. William had to impress the judges by demonstrating academic success, extra-curricular involvement, public service and future career plans, together with his personal experiences.

William is currently studying four A levels and is hoping to go to Warwick University in September to study Mathematics.



## ISFA cap is in safe hands with Andy



Andy Leech (U6LB) has been capped for playing in the Independent Schools' Football Association national team. Andy, goalkeeper for King's 1st XI for the past three seasons, was selected for the national team after a successful trial in the North vs South Independent Schools' match.

Andy has played matches against Wales, Scotland and Australia, as well as touring Poland with the side. Andy was presented with his cap by Headmaster Mr Chris Ramsey and is now hoping to continue his education in the USA having received offers for a sports scholarship from College Sport USA on their Student Athlete Mentoring Program.



## Half marathon heroines

Charlotte Gillies (U6ER) and Charlotte Seddon (L6NH) took part in the Chester Half Marathon in May. They finished in a fantastic time of 2 hours 5 mins and were probably the youngest entrants.

## Welsh cricket cap for Alastair

Alastair Andrady (RmMT) has received his cap for Wales.

He played U11 cricket for Wales last year, and is undergoing trials again this year. Alastair is a regular cricket player at King's. He is the UI2 cricket team Captain and plays for the North East Wales team.

