



THE KING'S SCHOOL
CHESTER

Herald

All the latest news from The King's School, Chester | Winter 2016

**The King's School,
colouring their
lives forever.**

Learn more inside...



'*Oliver*' leaves audience begging for more

Read the full story on page 15



Sixth Formers take up top university places

After receiving their A Level results in August, Sixth Form students had much to celebrate. Ten students, six girls and four boys, went on to study at Oxford or Cambridge, with many more students gaining their first place choice at the country's finest universities and most competitive top courses.

In all, 53% of the 105 King's leavers this year achieved the university gold standard of AAB, as demanded by many of the top universities and courses, and seven students have been successful in their applications for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science.

87.2% of the grades achieved were A* to B with over 22% of passes at the top A* grade and 62% A*/A.

Oliver Berry, Benjamin Cliff, Angus Menzies and Andrew Darby gained a full house of 4 A*s and five students gained 3 A*s and 1 A: Simon Ellershaw, Gergo Erdi-Krausz, Aidan Kiely, Mathew Oliver and Arjun Rao.

A further eight students gained 4 A*/A grades. Erin Hollingworth and Daniel Swinnock gained 2 A*s and 2 As.

1 A* and 3 A grades were achieved by Frances Alcock, Harry Higginbottom, Lucy Peel, Amy Shaheir, Daniel Weatherly and Hansaj Singh. Shreyas Moodalbyle achieved 3 A*s and Anna Willis achieved 4 As.

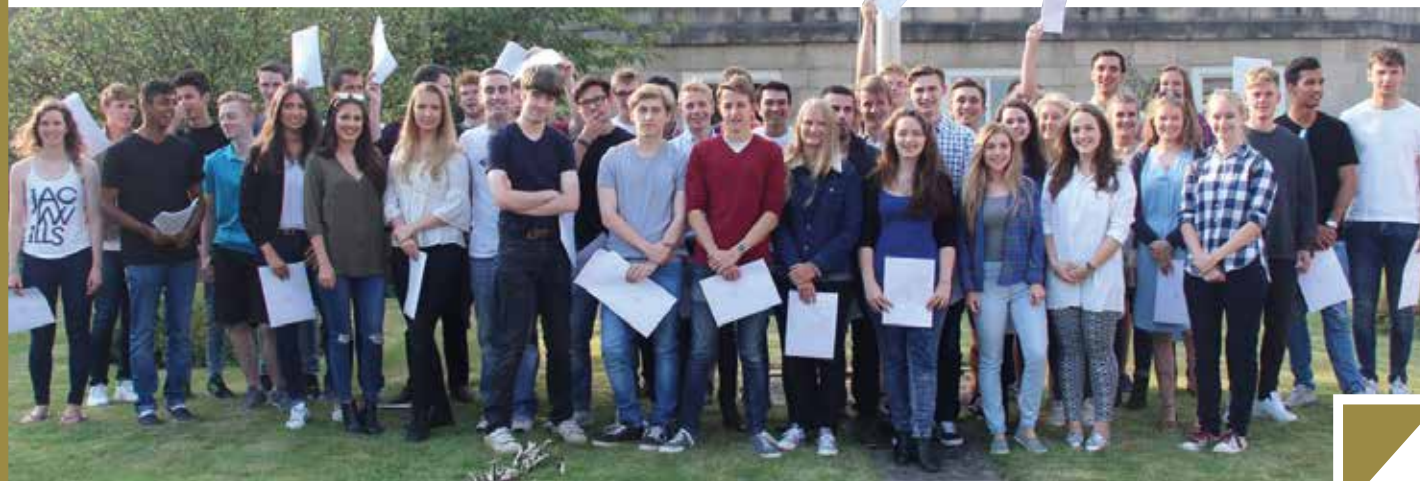


"Once again, this year, our Sixth Form leavers have seen their reward for all the hard work they have put into their A Level studies with the support of their teachers.

A Level results are only one measure of a top academic school and I am particularly pleased that our tremendous record in helping students to the leading world and UK universities remains incredibly strong, led by our 10 Oxford and Cambridge students this year achieving their very high offers. It is always pleasing to see our bright, independent-thinking students being valued so highly by the top universities.

I pass my heartfelt congratulations to every one of our leavers. I am extremely proud of all of them and wish them every success as they start the next stage of their university careers."

Mr Ramsey, Headmaster.



Top performance by GCSE students

Following on from outstanding A Level results, placing King's as the top performing school in Cheshire, the GCSE results were equally strong with 26% of all students achieving at least 10 A*/A grades.

Four students achieved fantastic results of 11 A*s GCSE grades or more: Sophie Cliff (11 A*s), Emily Cresswell (11 A*s), Anna Jones (11 A*s and 1 B) and Rebecca Perkins (11 A*s and 1 A).

Five students gained 10 A*s GCSE grades or more: Rhiannon Jackson (10 A*s and 1 B), Anna Lloyd (10 A*s, 1 A and 1 B), Ruhi Kaur (10 A*s), Robert Clark (10 A*s and 1 A) and Owen Edwards (10 A*s and 1 A).

King's girls led the way with 52% of all passes being graded A* and 78% graded A*/A.

In total, 50% of King's students gained at least 9 A*/A grade or more. 46.1% of all grades were at A* level, with 74% of all grades achieved at A*/A grades, with students performing extremely well across all subject areas. In Further Maths, 55% of students achieved A* grade with 12 of these achieving the top grade possible A* with Distinction. This is an extra grade beyond A* given to high achievers in recognition of how difficult it is to obtain.



"I am delighted with this year's GCSE results. Our students have worked extremely hard with the support and encouragement from their teachers. A quarter of our students achieved at least 10 A/A grades and with an 8% increase on last year's A* grades; this is one of our highest ever A* grade results. I am continually proud of how incredibly busy our students are, not only academically but also participating in plays, concerts and sports teams at a local, national and sometimes international level. I would like to congratulate each and every one of them and wish them the best of luck as they move on to their A Level studies."*

Mr Ramsey, Headmaster.



Meet our new Head of School team

The new Head of School team has been selected for this academic year and was announced by Mr Carter, Head of Sixth Form.

This year's Head of School is Joseph Langley (U6JC), with Emily Snow (U6HJ) and Barnaby Rule (U6JR) both appointed Deputies.

In addition, 31 other Sixth Formers were selected to role in the Head Prefect team. The team will be leading the Sixth Form and the School in this important 475th commemorative year.

The selection process for prefects at King's is rigorous and includes a detailed application. They are elected by peers and staff, followed by an interview with the Headmaster and Head of Sixth Form.

The prefect system operates in all areas of life at King's with Head Prefects acting as important role models for the younger pupils to aspire to. They show initiative and help guide, advise and care for others pupils in the School.

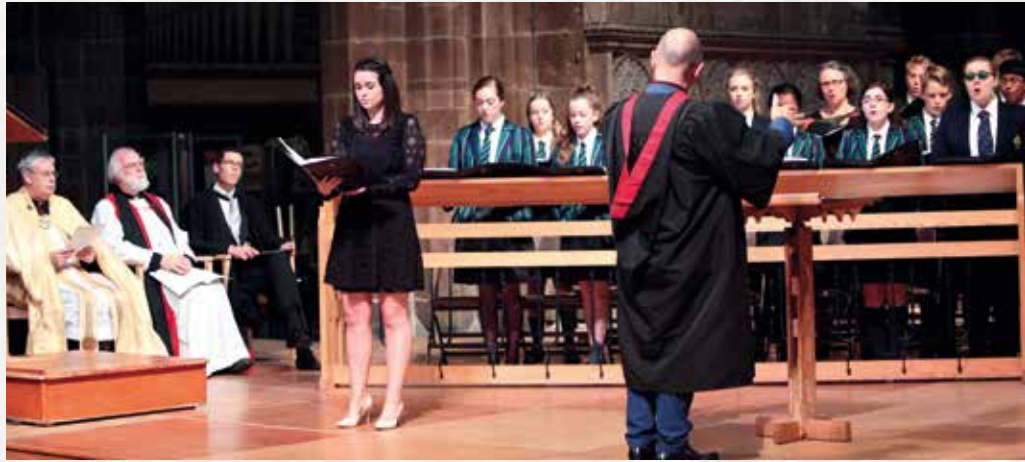


Celebrating our 475th anniversary in style

September marked a massive 475 years of history and education here at King's.

The Cathedral Service

The celebrations commenced with a very special Commemoration Service held at Chester Cathedral. The fanfare that sounded as the choir and clergy entered the Cathedral was composed by Danny Ortiz, Head of Brass, especially for this service, and was played by musicians who are current and former students. Hundreds of special guests, including many former pupils, were treated to a captivating and inspirational address by Lord Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury. The service included: contributions from several former pupils, including readings by renowned actors and former King's pupils Ronald Pickup and Nickolas Grace; an enchanting musical solo by soprano Zara Fyfe who sang beautifully; an outstanding Organ Voluntary from Mark Swinton; and prayers by Alan Vallance.



The Opening of The King's Walk

Following the service, guests and former pupils returned to the School for the official opening of The King's Walk. This archive exhibition is displayed in the tower and shows snapshots of King's history through the centuries. The King's Walk was officially opened by Lord Williams, and all guests thoroughly enjoyed touring the exhibition and reading about the School's colourful 475 years of history. The exhibition was created by Mrs Harding, Head Librarian and Archivist, Mr Neal, Assistant Head, and Miss Titmuss, Director of External Affairs. Sixth Form students led tours, giving visitors the chance to explore the School, many being delighted by all the fabulous improvements and new buildings.

A couple of former pupils were returning to the School for the first time in over 50 years.

Leading Lights Awards

Guests were then invited to the 1541 Restaurant for the Headmaster's Celebration Luncheon, where there was the opportunity to catch up with friends, old and new, whilst enjoying a delicious three course meal. The lunch concluded with the presentation of the illustrious 'Leading Lights' Awards. These awards recognise and celebrate the success and contributions of former King's pupils to society. Awards are granted to those previous pupils who have used their education to excel both professionally and personally, and deserve special recognition.



Nickolas Grace introduced the recipient and presented the first ever award to Ronald Pickup, for his accomplishments as one of Britain's most versatile and enduringly successful character actors. Awards were also announced for Arnold Cooke, for longstanding service to rowing and John Everard, for outstanding achievements in Her Majesty's Diplomatic Service.

The Tudor Ball

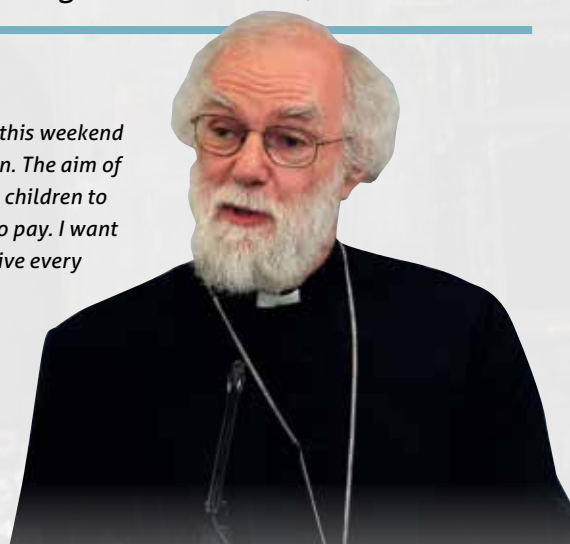
The celebrations concluded with the 475th Anniversary Ball, held in a splendid Tudor-themed marquee in the School grounds. A fitting end to the celebrations. 300 guests enjoyed a drinks reception followed by a delicious four course dinner, with attendance from current parents, and former King's pupils from as far as New Zealand, Canada and America. Nickolas Grace entertained the audience with an impressive and humorous after dinner speech, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

King's 100 Challenge

Importantly, the weekend of celebrations saw the launch of the King's 100 Challenge – a 25 year vision to raise £30 million by the School's 500th Anniversary. This fund will be used to add 100 extra bursaries and assisted places at King's. Currently King's is in the position of only being able to offer a tiny handful of bursaries each year and sometimes has to turn away children. The King's 100 Challenge will help those families who not only require full bursaries, but who also need support in part-funding their child's education.

Mr Ramsey commented, *"I am delighted to use this weekend of celebration to announce this ambitious vision. The aim of the King's 100 Challenge is to enable 100 more children to join King's, regardless of their parents' ability to pay. I want King's to represent the whole community and give every child the opportunity of a King's education."*

In summary, a very special weekend indeed for pupils past and present, with not only the chance to reflect on the School's 475 years of history, but also the opportunity to celebrate looking to the future. To find out more about the King's 100 Challenge turn to page 20.



New Headmaster appointment announced

In July, Mrs Joanne Clague, Chair of Governors, announced the appointment of Mr George Hartley to the role of Headmaster from September 2017. Mr Hartley will be the 42nd Headmaster at King's in its 475 year history. Mr Hartley will take the helm from Mr Ramsey who is moving to Whitgift School, South London.

Mr Hartley is currently Principal of Elizabeth College, Guernsey, a day school of 770 pupils where he has been instrumental in broadening the school's horizons, raising academic standards and launching a successful fundraising capital campaign. Previous to this, he was Headmaster of Sixth Form at Berkhamstead School, having taught at Highgate School, Queen's College, Taunton and Eton College.

Mr Hartley is 47, married to Merewyn and has two children, aged 10 and 12. He read Geography at St Catharine's College, Cambridge, gaining an MA, and later completed an MSc in Environmental Science at Imperial College, London.

Of his appointment to King's, Mr Hartley said, "I am delighted and honoured to be given this role and am really excited at the prospect of making a real difference to the lives of King's pupils in years to come. King's is an outstanding school with a long and distinguished history and I am looking forward to building further on its great

tradition. I am also looking forward to getting fully involved in the Chester community and bringing my young family to the North West with all it has to offer and where we have strong family links."

Mrs Clague added, "We are delighted to have appointed George to be our next Headmaster here at King's. We carried out a rigorous and extensive recruitment process, which included looking outside the UK, and the field was extremely competitive. Chris Ramsey has been an outstanding Headmaster over the last 10 years, overseeing an extensive development programme for the School and delivering an impressive range of educational achievements.

I have no doubt that George will build on this legacy; taking King's forward as a leading co-educational day school, ensuring it remains true to its history and also the vision for each pupil to achieve more than they thought possible.

We look forward to working with George and the wider leadership team to initiate an exciting new chapter in the history of the School; to have

someone with his warmth, energy, vision and ability as Head will stand the School in good stead for years to come.

Chris Ramsey will continue to provide strong leadership for King's, as he has done throughout his tenure as Headmaster, until his move at the end of August 2017."



Mr George Hartley, King's new Headmaster from September 2017.

We will remember

By 1916, peace seemed remote and war had become 'normal'. Each morning the School waited anxiously for news of its nearly 300 former pupils and staff who were now serving. Increasingly, the news was bad. King's lost eleven former pupils in 1916, eight of them in the Battle of the Somme, fought between 1 July and 18 November.



As the number of men killed increased, so too did the number wounded. 'Many of our Old Boys serving have been wounded, some severely, some more than once', observed the Headmaster in the 1916 Year Book. One of these was Lieutenant Jack Williams of the Royal Garrison Artillery, who left King's in 1911. Although wounded on three occasions, Williams won the Military Cross, as his former Headmaster put it, 'by courage exceptional even in these heroic days'.

The honour was awarded, his citation stated, 'for conspicuous gallantry on several occasions, notably when commanding a group of trench mortar batteries repeatedly under very heavy fire. His efficiency and courage largely contributed to the success of the operations. He was at the time lame from a wound received the week before.'

Clearly, such valour was a source of much pride to the School, every bit as much as his distinguished academic record. He was at King's from 1907 to 1911 in which year he gained an Open Mathematical Scholarship at Queen's College, Oxford, the Platt Leaving Exhibition, and the Westminster Gold Medal. He got a First Class in Mathematics, and joined the Army at the outbreak of the War.

Exactly how many former King's pupils were wounded in the course of the First World War is not known. Nor is how much they suffered. Wounded veterans were a common sight during and after the war however, and no account of the impact of the First World War would be complete without them.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

1914 1918



King's Cadets proud to be part of Remembrance Sunday

King's CCF were proud to march at the Cenotaph in London on Remembrance Sunday as part of the National Service of Remembrance.

8,000 people took part in the march past, and it was both a humbling experience and an immense honour for the cadets to be involved.



Fifth in the world for F1 racers!

6 SIXTH DEGREE

In October, five students from King's embarked on an adventure to the F1 in Schools World Final in Austin, Texas.

For James McDonagh, Joshua Roberts (2016 leavers), Anna Lloyd (L6SB), Amelia Standing (L6SB) and Olivia Samson (L6ER) many successful rounds of competition in the UK led to the chance for the School to test itself on the world stage. As well as designing 1:20 scale F1 cars to be drag raced, the Sixth Degree team had to raise the sponsorship needed to reach the finals and represent team GB in the United States.

The team worked incredibly hard to gain support from Airbus, Encirc 360, Nissan, AFYA Sports Training and Jaguar Land Rover amongst many other generous sponsors, raising a massive £16,000. On arrival, the team took a cultural tour of the US Capitol Building in Austin followed by a networking lunch. They then set up their pit display which would be their base of operations over the following four days of competition.

The team were kept busy with presentations, racing, live TV interviews and pressure challenges, and Anna, James and Joshua were invited to the Randstad Williams assessment centre. This gave pupils the opportunity to compete for a place on a mentoring program that could eventually lead to a

job working for Williams F1, an honour that James was later awarded!

The penultimate day of racing saw Sixth Degree as the fastest English car defeat the fastest Australian team for the coveted Ashes trophy. An excellent placing in the knockouts, as well as strong reorientation in all other elements of the competition saw the team awarded fifth in the world. This is an outstanding achievement not least for a school appearing at the world finals for the first ever time.

The reward, was four incredible days at The Circuit of the Americas watching the racing, lapping the track on a bus and getting hands on experience in the pit lane with many F1 teams. Sixth Degree also spent time in the Force India garage learning about Formula One technology and seeing all that goes into a Grand Prix weekend.

Sixth Degree would like to thank all students, sponsors and the School for their support. The team are excited about what the future will bring for this competition and can't wait for the 2017 World Finals in Singapore!



Congratulations to all our prizewinners

The last day of term saw 1200 pupils, staff, Governors, parents and guests gather at Chester Racecourse for the annual Prizegiving Ceremony. Following on from the Leavers' Service at Chester Cathedral, the school community walked along the walls to the Racecourse.

137 prizewinners from Removes to Upper Sixth pupils celebrated achievements for academic, sport, drama and music success. The top King's academic prize of the Westminster Medal was awarded to Patrick Hudson.

The ceremony included musical items, poetry and readings from pupils. The Headmaster reflected on the year's achievements including the successful opening of Willow Lodge, and the Chair of Governors, Mrs Joanne Clague, gave the opening and closing addresses.

The prizes were awarded this year by guest speaker Mr Ronan Dunne, Chief Executive of O2. His perceptive and engaging speech, asked pupils, parents and the business community to engage more readily with the digital world where many of the future jobs for young people would be. He also encouraged students not to rush the move on to the next stage of their lives, but to enjoy and gain fulfilment from the benefits and experiences each stage brought.

Following the ceremony, over 600 prizewinners, Sixth Form leavers and their parents joined the staff and Governors for lunch in the Pavilion Suite.



Scholarships for two promising engineers

The Design and Technology Department is delighted that two more students have been awarded an Arkwright Engineering Scholarship this year. Anna Lloyd (L6SB) and Sebastian Yelesen (L6DB) received their awards in London over half term.

The award is the most prestigious scholarship of its type in the UK, receiving applications from students across the country. The award aims to recognise future leaders in engineering and put students through a rigorous application and interview process. Students are then matched with a sponsor who provides financial support to both the student and school, as well as introducing the students to a network of support, to help guide them into engineering careers. Anna and Sebastian excelled at all stages of the process and have been recognised as the latest Scholars from the Design and Technology Department. King's looks forward to following their careers as they move into the world of engineering.



Tetra Pak CEO presents to students

In September, Sixth Form Economics and Business Studies students were treated to a very special presentation by Stefan Fageräng, CEO of Tetra Pak UK.

Mr Fageräng's presentation covered many interesting areas, including global business, the history of Tetra Pak and the important aspect of environmental sustainability. He spent time afterwards with the students on a really worthwhile question & answer session. The students thoroughly enjoyed the presentation, finding it both informative and motivational.



Farewell to a friend of King's

All at King's were saddened to hear about the death of the School's patron His Grace The Duke of Westminster in August. The Duke was an active supporter of King's, most recently opening Willow Lodge, our Infant School in September 2015.

A quiet, private family funeral service was held in August, and a Memorial Service was held at Chester Cathedral in November, attended by family, close friends, estate workers and representatives of charities with whom the Duke had links. Mr Ramsey represented King's at the Memorial Service.



"It was with the greatest sadness that we heard of the passing of The Duke of Westminster. Here at King's, we have had a long association with His Grace, and it was an honour to have him visit the School last year for our Infant School opening. He was a remarkable man, who has always been a great friend to us all and he will be greatly missed."

Mr Ramsey, Headmaster.



Exploring the world of languages

In September, King's celebrated European Day of Languages. With over 6,000 languages spoken around the world, it was an ideal opportunity to encourage language learning throughout the School.

It was fantastic to see everyone take part, and to find out that so many of the staff and pupils already speak other languages. It was a wonderful opportunity to share stories with each other about trips and experiences abroad. Pupils and staff enjoyed sharing stories about overseas trips, looking at the displays, entering the competition and also enjoyed a fine feast from around the world in the 1541 restaurant.



Successful Summer Reading Challenge

Over the summer, new Removes were set a challenge to read at least four books on the theme of "Other Lands" and to then design a creative response to the books they had read. 28 pupils took part and completed the challenge, with lots of pupils reading more than four books. The prize went to Carina Chau (RmCH) for reading the most, an amazing 58 books, a true bookworm!

King's was delighted to welcome our Patron of Reading, Jon Mayhew, to the library to judge the entries and award certificates to all those who completed the Reading Challenge. Jon is the very successful author of the *Mortlock and the Monster Odyssey* series, and pupils were delighted that he was able to join them.

An exceptionally high level of commitment and creativity was shown by all the pupils who took part. The winners were: Hannah Evans (RmNG), George Munday (RmSC), Puintka Prasertsri (RmDR) and Jacob Baker (RmRA). All winners, including Carina, received a signed book and a delicious bar of chocolate to enjoy whilst reading it!

King's has been absolutely delighted to work with Jon on the Summer Reading Challenge, and will be working with him throughout the year with Seniors, Juniors and Infants promoting reading for pleasure with all the students.



Book Award: the story continues

The second King's Book Award was launched in October. Last year's award was a great success, with many pupils and staff reading the books over the course of five months, attending author visits, taking part in quizzes and of course voting for their favourite book.

This year, eight books have been shortlisted, based on nominations from pupils.

The books are:

Am I Normal Yet? by Holly Bourne

Geekhood: Close Encounters of the Girl Kind by Andy Robb

The Hidden Oracle by Rick Riordan

The Devil is a Part-timer (Manga)

The Door That Led to Where by Sally Gardner

Chasing the Stars by Malorie Blackman

One by Sarah Crossan

The Art of Being Normal by Lisa Williamson

The books were introduced to pupils and staff in assemblies, which led to all copies (90 books) being borrowed within two days, and many reserving the books they found the most appealing.

Voting will take place in March 2017 and, in the lead up, there will be opportunities for the pupils to interact with many of the authors in person and on Skype. Watch this space to see which of these great books will take the Book Award.



In the footsteps of Darwin...

During the summer, the Biology department led a highly successful trip to Ecuador and the Galápagos Islands. The first few days were spent at altitude in Quito during the course of which the group visited the "Mitad del Mundo" museum on the Equator and descended (a long way!) into the biological reserve in the crater of Pululahua Volcano.

The journey from Quito to Galápagos was complex, involving a number of flights, busses and boat trips before the team arrived on the idyllic Isabela Island. As cases were unloaded, there were sea lions asleep pretty much everywhere; marine iguanas sprawled in the sunshine; penguins and seals swimming around the harbour; and frigate birds and pelicans circling overhead. It really was another world.

The group spent a few days on Isabela Island, one day walking up through cacti and holy stick trees to the moonscape rim of the caldera of the Sierra Negra volcano; another day snorkelling with turtles in a sea inlet. Pupils visited a breeding sanctuary for giant tortoises and took a boat ride around the coast to visit Los Tuneles, a landscape of lava formations in the sea around which turtles and white tipped sharks swam lazily, as blue footed boobies and their chicks sat basking in the sun.

Later in the stay, the participants sailed back to Santa Cruz Island where they had the joy of visiting the Charles Darwin Research Centre and of bathing in Tortuga Bay as hermit crabs and puffer fish crawled and swam around them. There was also an amazing morning spent visiting Reserve El Chato where, after walking through lava tunnels, the group emerged to spend time where giant tortoises roamed and finches and mocking birds hopped around them.

This was truly the trip of a lifetime. On the final night, the wonderfully knowledgeable guides stood with the group on the pier in Puerto Ayora watching sharks circling below, a sea lion clambering onto a bench and a pelican staring at them peacefully. He pointed out "You've seen it now, and it is for you to ensure it is looked after into the future." Yes, it is.



Wet but wonderful summer adventures

64 Cadets attended the Combined Cadet Force Summer camp at Warcop in Cumbria over the summer holidays.

Despite the terrible weather, they had an excellent week getting involved in a wide range of activities such as mountain biking, hill climbing, canoeing, shooting, navigation and military skills. Cadets and adults alike routinely worked 16-hour days to make the camp a success.

Well done to everyone involved, especially Scot Hodgson (L6ER), Arvind Sahni (L6LM) and Nicholas Lewis (3AL) who each received awards for their outstanding performances on camp.



Great fun in the great outdoors

Third Year pupils were treated to an exciting Outward Bound week to Ullswater in June. The Ullswater Centre is set in 18 acres of woodland, based on the north shore of the lake. The pupils really enjoyed making full use of the many facilities at the centre including the games room and the student lounge.

Whilst the trip was physically challenging, pupils found the visit most rewarding. As ever, the instructors were inspirational, and the pupils were enthusiastic and a pleasure to witness. They took part in many challenging and strenuous activities, including rock climbing, expeditions and a gorge scramble, but also had lots of fun sailing, canoeing and jumping into the lake!

The pupils were able to challenge themselves, irrespective of the abilities of others in the group, and help each other to achieve rather than to compete. It was a truly rewarding trip which will be the topic of conversation for years to come.



Cadets camp out in the Canadian Rockies

CCF cadets Chloe Cowan (U6JR) and Henry Greaves (U6JR) took part in the prestigious Army Cadet Exchange to Canada in the Rocky Mountains for six weeks over the summer.



The camp used adventurous training as a vehicle to develop leadership, confidence, self-discipline and teamwork. Henry and Chloe performed very well on the course and had a great time. Chloe won the 'Cadet of the Week' award in the second week and Henry was so impressive that he has been recommended to return in 2017 as a staff cadet.

Leavers have a ball

The DoubleTree by Hilton hotel was the fantastic venue for the Sixth Formers Leavers' Ball in July.

This glamorous event allowed students the chance to let down their hair and celebrate after all their hard work. The event was attended by both students and teachers. It gave them the ideal opportunity to celebrate, and to also say goodbye to friends as they move onto the next chapter of their lives.



Celebrating the end of exams

Fifth Formers celebrated the end of their GCSE examinations in style this year.

The King's School Prom was held at the DoubleTree by Hilton hotel in August. It was a wonderful opportunity for the pupils to dress up and a fantastic time was had by all. The prom marks the end of an era for the pupils and the start of an exciting new chapter, as they go on to further their studies in Sixth Form in September.



A busy Duke of Edinburgh season

The Duke of Edinburgh season has been busy for pupils at King's, during which over 125 new pupils registered for the Award, at all three levels. The team here at King's works closely with expedition providers at Get Outside the Classroom to ensure that pupils have a safe and enjoyable expedition experience. To date pupils have been presented with 33 Bronze and 20 Silver Awards as recognition of their achievements.

14 pupils have successfully completed their Gold Award in 2016 and will receive their certificates at a presentation ceremony at St James' Palace, London, which is usually attended by His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh.

Pupils participating in the Award continue to be involved in a wide-range of activities including music, photography, cooking, veterinary surgery assistants and sport. They also devote a significant amount of time volunteering with toddler and youth groups, centres for the elderly and numerous other charities.

The weather continues to challenge our students on their expeditions, with weather from all seasons in one day not uncommon, particularly in August when the Gold Award group had six inches of rain fall on them in 24 hours.



Top performance of 'Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell'

Keith Waterhouse's irreverent play *Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell* was brought to life in September in a riotously funny production by Focus Theatre, King's Sixth Form Theatre Company.

Playing to packed auditoriums both evenings, audiences were clearly loving every minute of Thomas Cuffin Munday's and Patrick Hudson's slick and stylish interpretation. Barnaby Rule (U6JR) excelled as protagonist Jeffrey Bernard and his masterful comic timing and natural stage presence resulted in a performance packed full of laughs and pathos. Jack Sackett (L6AM), Isobel Larken (U6CC), Simon Parker (U6JR) and Lottie Cousins (L6AM) did a hugely commendable job of taking on an abundance of weird and wonderful past acquaintances of Jeffrey, ranging from resentful ex-wives and disgruntled editors through to genuinely terrifying Russian nurses.

This was student theatre at its best and yet another reminder of the wealth of theatrical talent on offer here at King's.



Bake off takes the cake for cancer support

The King's School Bake Off was a great success. Again this year, there were so many entries and plenty of delicious cakes to sell and enjoy.

Thanks to everyone's support, a fantastic £327.54 was raised for Macmillan Cancer Support. All the cakes entered were delicious, and the winners of the bake off were; George Munday (RmSC), James Heritage (ShMP), Billy McCorkell (4AR) and Eve Jawara (4MP).



Mrs Ainsworth takes up Junior Head role

The Headmaster was delighted to announce the appointment of Mrs Margaret Ainsworth as Head of The Junior School and Willow Lodge from September 2016.

Mrs Ainsworth, the experienced and inspirational Head of Willow Lodge, King's Infant School, now takes The Junior School under her wing too.



Mrs Ainsworth has a wealth of experience, and was previously Deputy Head of The Queen's School Lower School before joining King's. She is also a King's parent with two sons who were at the Junior School and a daughter who is currently in the Third Year of the Senior School.

Mrs Ainsworth commented, *"I was absolutely thrilled to be invited to head the junior section of King's in addition to Willow Lodge. I passionately believe in offering parents a first class primary education for their children and I am honoured to be asked to lead such a vibrant and dedicated staff in the Junior School.*

Together with the staff, I look to continue the excellent legacy of Mr Malone, in making King's Infant and Junior Schools the leading independent primary schools in the region."

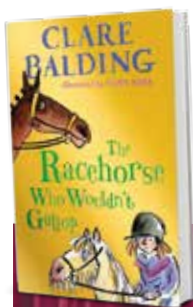
Mrs Ainsworth has succeeded the previous Head of Junior School, Mr Simon Malone who retired this summer. Mr Malone served the School for 23 years, with the

last 15 years as Head of The Junior School. His retirement was marked in the School assembly where he was presented with a beautiful leather bound book of memories from all the pupils, followed by a farewell presentation by all the parents. All the staff and pupils at King's would like to wish Mr Malone all the best for a long, healthy and fun-filled retirement.



Juniors welcome TV favourite Clare

In September, it was a delight to welcome the wonderful presenter, writer and broadcaster, Clare Balding to The Junior School.



Clare presented an inspirational and motivating talk to all the pupils, where she took the opportunity to talk about the importance of confidence, commitment and believing in yourself. The pupils were able to chat with her about the Olympics, and their favourite Olympic heroes, something all the pupils thoroughly enjoyed, asking Clare lots and lots of questions!

Clare has recently released her new children's book, *The Racehorse Who Wouldn't Gallop* and she took the time to talk to each pupil individually about the book, signing a personal copy for each and every one of them. The pupils can't wait to read about Charlie, Noble Warrior and Percy the Pony, and they will cherish their signed copies for years to come.



OLIVER TWIST

'*Oliver*' leaves audience begging for more

Towards the end of the summer term, the J4 pupils dazzled and delighted with their stunning production of *Oliver*. Their energy, focus and abundant talent were clear to see and audiences were astounded by this inventive and beautifully set production.

Whilst the whole of J4 worked superbly well together to ensure the success of the production, a few individuals in leading roles must be mentioned. Freddie Spillane took the title role and conveyed a wonderful mix of vulnerability and determination. His rendition of '*Where is Love*' had many audience members reaching for their handkerchiefs. His performance contrasted beautifully with Ted Toovey as The Artful Dodger, who portrayed a very cheeky and likeable character. His movement and accent were both excellent and he had the audience roaring with laughter. Lux Tilston played Nancy with great aplomb, showing warmth in her portrayal and her rendition of '*As Long as He Needs Me*' once again got audience members reaching for their handkerchiefs. Her character was very different to Bill Sykes and Ted Arnold did a wonderful job of suggesting his dark presence and anger. Whilst certain individuals have been mentioned, it was a superb team effort and every child involved created believable characters, reacting and responding to the action with great focus and humour.

The Director (Mr Melville) and Musical Director (Mrs Stevens) were delighted with the performance and certainly felt all the hard work paid off in a production which will be talked about for some time to come.

Special mention must be made of Miss Savage for her stunning set – the back projection on washing was a masterstroke! She was ably assisted by Mr Hollingworth who constructed Victorian railings, helping to give the production an authentic feel. Mr Mannix did a wonderful job with both sound and light, and the back projections clearly set and helped the mood for each scene.



'Best of show' for living wall display

The Junior School was honoured to receive an award for the "best visitor activity" at the Royal Cheshire Show in June.



As part of the 'School's Out' exhibition, the Junior School team followed the theme of "the demands of a growing population" by designing a stand of vertical living walls and using recycled materials to make the fruit and flowers on the display. The whole School contributed to this display under Miss Savage's expert guidance. Both Miss Savage and Mr Melville and 12 Junior School children represented King's on the stand each day, helping visitors with two activities – sowing pea or sweet pea plants or making a paper flower. Both activities were very popular

with visitors and the staff and children were kept very busy all day but still got time to have a good look around the show too!

The 'School's Out' marquee won the best marquee award at the Cheshire Show. King's School were chosen to accept the award on behalf of the other schools in the marquee. Ifan Thomas (J4S) accepted the award in the main arena with the president of the show and local dignitaries and a big announcement across the showground.



Kings of the Castle

Junior School pupils would like to say a huge thank you to all the parents for their generous donations that enabled the fabulous King's Castle play area to be built.

The pupils have had such fun playing on the equipment this term – a fantastic asset for the Junior School, and one to be enjoyed for many years to come.



Brilliant performances by young biathletes

26 Junior School pupils entered the North West Biathlon Championships, held at Leigh Sports Village, Manchester in October. The pupils took part in an 800m track race and a 50m swim and were given points for their timed efforts, and the children with the best combined score won.

Finlay Thomson (J4) won Gold for the U11 boys' individual and Arthur Crewe (J3) won Bronze for the U10 boys' individual which means they both qualify along with Alex Williams (J3) and Harry Taylor (J3) for the Schools' Biathlon Final, held at Crystal Palace in March 2017.

Well done to all 28 pupils who competed, it was a fantastic day for everyone involved.



Success on the slopes

In September, the King's Ski Team competed at the ESSKIA British Schools' competition in Stoke.

Gabrielle Holt (J2T), Amber Millard-Smith (J2T), Caspar Rathbone (J2A) and Francis Unett (J3O) completed two slalom race runs, with the top 3 scores counting towards the team result.

The King's Team performed incredibly well which was fantastic, given that the team comprised the youngest competitors. They have another three years to compete in this age group, showing considerable potential!

Following this event, over the half term, Gabrielle and Amber went on to represent King's at a ski race training camp in Austria, sharing race pistes with world cup teams from all over the world. The future of the King's Ski Team looks very bright indeed!



A 'quacking' effort for Babygrow Appeal



Willow Lodge made a splash at this year's Countess of Chester Babygrow Appeal duck race thanks to Reception pupils in Willow Lodge.

Parent Danielle Platten sponsored two corporate ducks and kindly gifted them to the School to take part in the duck race. Children in Robins and Wrens had a wonderful time decorating the ducks, and although the ducks might not have won the race on the day, they certainly won the hearts of the event organisers and spectators. They have helped raise funds for the hospital's new neonatal unit, and have since flown back to their home at Willow Lodge.



Facts and fun with the firefighters

The infants and juniors received a visit from the Cheshire Fire Department in June, much to the delight of the pupils. The firefighters provided an engaging and informative talk on fire safety, stressing the importance of carrying out a regular fire alarm test every week.

Following the talk, pupils headed outside to see the fire engine complete with flashing lights which ignited a lot of excitement. The Infants also had the chance to help a firefighter with the water hose which made for a real splash of fun.

Thank you Chester Fire Department!



Whipple-scrumptious!

In September, infant pupils were treated to a whipple-scrumptious day of treats to celebrate Roald Dahl Day.

Wonka Bars, Witches' Fingers, Snozzcumbers and George's Marvellous Medicine were all on the menu, all washed down with some delicious Froboscottle!



Topping up Mummy's Star charity fund

Willow Lodge pupils have been having great fun this term decorating cakes! The cakes were sold and raised £115 for the 'Mummy's Star' charity, which helps women who are diagnosed with illnesses during pregnancy.

Teacher, Mr O'Neil has been supporting the charity, and this is one of the many events he has been involved in, raising in total over £16,000 so far. Such a worthwhile charity and the pupils really enjoyed getting messy with the yummy toppings!



Willow Lodge welcomes award-winning author

Excitement and anticipation overflowed in Willow Lodge in November with award-winning author and former CBBC presenter Nicola Davies, together with much-loved illustrator Petr Horacek visiting.

They presented their new book *A First Book of Animals* which is an impressive introduction to the natural world. Nicola brought the characters to life through reading extracts from the book as Petr drew illustrations which all the pupils loved!

Author and naturalist Nicola was a presenter on the CBBC programme, *The Really Wild Show*. She has paired with Czech illustrator Petr, winner of the Books for Children Newcomer award in 2002. The pair have written a spellbinding book about the natural world and its wonders.

Nicola and Petr signed personal copies of the book for all the pupils to take home.



A message from the Queen!

There was great excitement in Willow Lodge when pupils received a letter from Her Majesty the Queen! The pupils were overjoyed to hear that they had received a reply after sending lots of birthday cards and special wishes to help celebrate Her Majesty's 90th Birthday.

Last year's Woodpeckers made their own very special birthday cards, with lots of important questions for Her Majesty, including, "Do you enjoy colouring in?" and "What did you enjoy doing when you were little?"

The pupils were delighted to receive a letter back, as they understand how busy the Queen must be on a day-to-day basis.

The pupils also received a photograph of the Queen, both this and the letter will be framed and take pride of place in Willow Lodge.







King's 100 CHALLENGE
A 25 year vision for Bursaries

Ambitious bursary plans unveiled

In September this year, as part of the School's 475th anniversary celebrations, King's renewed its long standing commitment to broadening access and launched the "King's 100 Challenge" – an ambitious plan to create a bursary endowment to guarantee future financial support for families who need it.

Despite the generosity of existing benefactors, current resources mean that the School can only offer a limited number of bursaries and is in the difficult position of having to turn away deserving children, even though they may have passed the entrance examinations.

Within the next 25 years – by the School's 500th anniversary – the aim is to create 100 extra bursaries and assisted places. By doing so, King's estimates that it will be helping approximately 20% of Senior School pupils.

This is a tremendous ambition – one which will require a massive expansion of the School's bursary funds. The target is to be

spending, on average, around £1.3M per year on bursaries by 2041. It is very much hoped that King's alumni, friends and supporters will get behind this important cause, and of course the School is grateful to all those who have already made a donation.

For more details or to donate please visit:
www.kingschester.co.uk/donate or contact Anthony Hopkinson on 01244 689494

Investec gift boosts bursary fund

King's is delighted to announce that Liverpool-based financial services firm, Investec Wealth & Investment, has made a very generous contribution of £10,000 to its Bursary Trust Fund, thereby enabling more talented children to benefit from a King's Education.

Investec Wealth & Investment is one of the UK's leading investment management companies, with responsibility for £26.4 billion of client assets and has been trusted to meet the needs of private investors for almost 200 years.

The King's School's Director of Development, Anthony Hopkinson said, "I am absolutely thrilled with this donation from Investec. Investec's generosity provides the School with a great boost and will undoubtedly help build momentum as we look to increase our fundraising activity in the years to come."



Riding high at RIBA

Alan Vallance (OKS 1983) current CAOKS President, has been appointed Chief Executive of The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) following a stratospheric rise through the institute. He arrived at Portland Place a year ago as Interim Finance and Operations Director and became Interim Chief Executive in February.

Alan has a background in finance, consulting, strategic planning and general management in Europe and Australasia. Before joining RIBA, Alan spent time in Australia as Chief Operating Officer of the Australian Bureau of Meteorology, the national weather agency.

RIBA president Jane Duncan said: "We had a large and strong field of applicants and the interview panel were unanimous in concluding that Alan is the right person to lead RIBA as we deliver our five-year strategy."

Alan Vallance commented: "Architects are creative, visionary and collaborative professionals, who ensure that our built environment serves and strengthens communities now and in the future. It is a privilege to have been appointed to the role of Chief Executive of RIBA."



Leaving a gift of education

Earlier this term, the School had the great pleasure of meeting with siblings Philip and Elizabeth Parry whose father Harold 'Brian' Parry studied at King's between 1940 and 1946. Brian had elected to leave a gift in his will to King's in appreciation of the happy and eventful times he spent at the School.



Described as a 'real character' by his children, Brian sadly passed away in 2013, aged 84. He was a warm and generous family man, married to Margaret Hampson, with three children, Margaret, Philip and Elizabeth, three grandchildren and a great grandchild.

After completing an extended National Service in Malaya, Brian enjoyed a long and fruitful career in the Civil Service – working for Customs & Excise, where he also undertook distillery training, which endorsed his love for Scotland as well as the 'uisge beatha'. In his time, Brian was a keen sportsman – representing the School in rowing, football and cricket, before going on to play left wing for Holyhead. He was also a founder member of the Holyhead Tennis Club.

Brian and Margaret met whilst working in the Customs House on Salford Docks; a period when the quays were full of ships from around the world. Both were very keen walkers and enjoyed the natural world, so family holidays were always taken in the Lake District and Scotland.

Throughout Brian's life, he never lost contact with King's; both he and Margaret attended the official opening of the new School and supported the School when possible.

Leaving a gift to King's in your will has the power to change lives. It is one of the greatest gifts you can make, and is a lasting testimony to your affection for the School. The School is indebted to those such as Brian who choose to support King's in such a positive way.

If you would like to speak to someone regarding legacies and bequests to King's, please contact Anthony Hopkinson, our Director of Development on **01244 689494** or email at amh@kingschester.co.uk

Calling all Legal Eagles

To support the launch of our King's 100 Bursary Challenge, we are holding a fundraising dinner dedicated to those in the legal profession at the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple.

Old King's Scholar, His Honour Judge Anthony Russell QC and Headmaster Chris Ramsey are jointly hosting a convivial evening with great food and great company on the 16th February 2017. The event commences at 7pm.

For more information about the evening and how to book, please call Liz Gwyther on **01244 689492** or email eeg@kingschester.co.uk



Welcome back to an Olympic star

It was an honour to welcome King's Alumnus and Olympic rowing silver medallist Chris Bartley back to King's. Chris attended the Senior School Open Afternoon, where many existing and prospective pupils and their families had the opportunity to talk to him, see his medal and get an autograph!

Chris then took the time to meet all pupils from the youngest in Reception through to the Sixth Form. He also agreed to attend both the Junior and Senior School assemblies, delivering a very honest and truly inspirational speech to them all. Pupils had the opportunity to watch the London 2012 Olympic footage, where Chris and the GB Rowing Team won their Olympic silver medal and were also able to pose lots of questions to the Olympian about his life, his commitment to rowing and his training. Chris was inundated with requests for autographs, something pupils will take home and treasure for years to come.

For King's pupils, families and indeed staff, Chris has been a truly inspirational visitor. He spoke about the importance of pursuing your dreams, working hard and staying committed, but above all enjoying yourself, such an important message for pupils, and one that they all seemed to take on board. Chris ended his visit with a trip to the River Dee with the King's Rowing Club. A huge thank you to Chris for all his time, a true Olympic Star!



Make a date for our 2017 reunions

School reunions are a great opportunity to take stock, reminisce and hopefully meet friends with whom you have shared many experiences, but have perhaps lost touch. Take a trip back down memory lane, look through our archive materials and enjoy a tour of King's today and see how it has changed – or not!

The reunions scheduled for 2017 are:

1996 LEAVERS' REUNION
Saturday 11th February 2017

1987 LEAVERS' REUNION
Saturday 25th March 2017

1967 LEAVERS' REUNION
Saturday 13th May 2017

To find out more about any of these reunions, please call Liz Gwyther on **01244 689492** or email eeg@kingschester.co.uk

Racing at the world's biggest regatta

Thirteen of the School's top athletes had the opportunity to race at the world's biggest regatta in October. The Head of the Charles, held over the infamous three mile course on the Charles River in Boston, Massachusetts, played host to over 10,000 rowers and over 800 clubs from around the globe.

Since the turn of the century, The King's School has raced on three separate occasions at the event. This year, King's was represented by a senior boys' VIII and a senior girls' coxed four. The trip was a great success, both in terms of the performance of the crews and as a training camp for the squads. The athletes were able to gain their first taste of international competition whilst racing and training in an iconic global rowing venue.

The girls raced first and put in a good performance, holding their start position. From a total of 85 school and club crews, the girls finished one place ahead of UK based rivals Headington School in 52nd place. The boys' VIII raced later in the morning and after starting in 51st place, the boys put in a strong performance to finish in 36th place overall out of 85 crews. A strong performance, placing the boys in 3rd position for the UK represented crews, and one place ahead of rivals Shiplake College.



Aside from the main race, the students enjoyed a mix of activities in the Boston region. The boys' squad took on the infamous Harvard Stadium challenge in a team event against Westminster School, Shiplake College and The King's School, Wimbledon. The girls took the opportunity to train at our host club, Riverside Rowing Club. Later in the trip, after a tour around the city, both the boys' and girls' squads took part in a competitive training session on the Charles River against local school, Brookline High School.

In addition to the training and racing, the group enjoyed a night out watching ice hockey, a guided tour of Fenway Park and some inspirational jogs and training sessions around the Bay area in Boston.

Many thanks to: all the athletes who made the tour such an enjoyable and rewarding experience; and the supporting staff and coaches, Mr Paul Townshend (Head Girls Coach) and Mrs T. J. Medland (volunteer) who, together as a team, made the week in Boston an inspirational adventure.



Sculling for funds – and fun

The annual Rowing Club fundraiser was held in October. With over 70 athletes taking to the water to race in our very own Sculling Championships, all age groups were able to race each other in the hope of winning the title of The 2016 Sculling Champion. The event was split into two races, the first being a four minute test on the indoor rowing machine and then a 2,000 metre time trial on the water.

The time trials were split into four divisions with over 25 boats taking to the water, blessed with perfect conditions and no flow on the river, the athletes raced for their chance to take the crown!

The Club's captains and senior team members did a great job organising, helping and supporting the younger members of the Club and making the morning a very successful one for the KSRCPA. As the event was a fundraiser, all athletes paid a fee to compete and this helped the Club raise over £1,400, which will go towards buying new equipment. It was an excellent morning of racing and competition and the plan is to run the championships again in 2017.

The year group winners were:

Year	Boys	Girls
J14	Louis Corrigan	Lauren Barnes
J15	Toby Roberts	Pavlina Zigova
J16	Jack Roberts	Francesca Angel
J17	Rob Clark	Isabel Beardwood
J18	Iwan Bulkeley	Emily Letton



Hockey girls enjoy great National Schools' Cup run

The 1st XI girls' hockey squad have had a fantastic England Hockey National Schools' Cup run this season. Beating opponents Lymm High School, The Grange School, King's Macclesfield; and a narrow defeat against Wilmslow High School secured them a place in the North West semi-final at Timperley Hockey Club in November. The semi-final is made up of the strongest school sides in the North West.

In the semi-final, King's faced Merchant Taylors' School and scored an impressive 11 goals with Anna Wallace scoring four, Amelia Jones a hat-trick and Rachel Huber and Olivia Samson scoring a brace each. In the second game, King's faced Queen Katherine School which ended in a brilliant 4-0 win for King's.

In the final two matches, King's had to up their game and dig deep. They were excellent in their conduct and determination on the pitch but unfortunately lost to Kirkham Grammar 1-0 and Stockport Grammar 4-1. The 16 strong squad captained by Claire Tyrie can be proud of their representation of the School.



Rowing for Wales at the International Regatta

Four students recently made their first representation on the international rowing scene. The four rowers – Ben Samarji (U6JC), Iwan Bulkeley (U6SD), Natasha Groome (L6ER) and Anna Willis represented Team Wales at the International Regatta, in Cardiff.



Since the end of the School rowing calendar, Ben and Iwan have been training in a coxless pair and the boys performed really well on the day against crews from England, Ireland and Scotland. The boys were also selected in the coxed four, and whilst the crew raced well, they were unlucky not to gain a medal in a blanket finish.

Anna and Natasha raced in the junior women's coxless four. Again, the crew raced with passion and fight against some heavily favoured crews from the other three nations.

All four students really enjoyed their first experience.

Natasha said, *"My experience rowing for Wales was spectacular. The Home International has increased my passion for rowing and desire to want to attempt GB trials and to be able to compete in more international events."*

Well done to them all on such a fantastic achievement and King's wishes them all the best in their future rowing events.

On tour in Amsterdam

In August, the senior football and hockey squads travelled to Amsterdam for their pre-season tour. The 1st and 2nd team football squads trained at the world-renowned Ajax Academy while the hockey players were based at Pinoké, one of the three clubs in the Amsterdam Forest area of Amstelveen.

All players were trained by top level coaches and each team had three fixtures against local and international opposition. King's won every game, the best possible start to the season.

The students were also treated to a tour of the Amsterdam Arena, an Eredivisie match between Ajax and Willem II, a tour of Amsterdam and a pre-season hockey game

between Pinoké and Rotterdam. They also witnessed the Dutch Olympic Squad Jet returning from Rio.

There is a sports tour every academic year with Shells and Third Year netball and football players going to Marbella in October 2017, before heading to Holland with the Seniors again in 2018.



**Wednesday
18th
January
2017**

King's Infant School Entrance Assessments

Call: 01244 689 553
Email: admissions@kingschester.co.uk
www.kingschester.co.uk

Willow Lodge
The King's Infant School

Colour their lives forever

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The first step towards a King's education starts with an enlightening look inside.

Here's a wonderful idea...

Come and take a look around King's. We will shine light on a vibrant, academic environment for girls and boys with distinctly separate schools for Infant, Junior and Senior pupils. Our nurturing approach and stimulating curriculum combines to develop and enrich your child's life forever.



Ages 7-11

Junior Assessment Day

Years 3, 4, 5 & 6: Wednesday 18th January 2017



Ages 11-16

Senior Entrance Exams

Year 7: Wednesday 18th January 2017

We are proud to show parents and potential students around King's, any time.

01244 689 553

or email: admissions@kingschester.co.uk

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