

## The King's School... Colouring their lives forever...

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# An introduction from the Headmaster

At the end of a year of outstanding achievements we can truly say that King's is one of the country's leading co-educational day schools. Our vision is to inspire young people to embark on life confident of their place in the world and able to become leaders in it. Well, we have examination results which place us comfortably amongst the best schools in the country, and our scientists, mathematicians, designers, writers and geographers are just some of those who have been recognised as leading their fields amongst young people today.

Anyone who reads these reports will see, too, that our students thrive on the opportunities to develop wider interests: sportsmen and women, musicians, chess players and many others have pursued and reached the highest standards.

A great school is more than the sum of its parts. One event above all perhaps summarised teamwork and sheer excellence this year: the school musical *Les Misérables*. No endeavour teaches more about working together and the importance of concentration, commitment and hard work than a major production like this, and for those who worked on and saw this extraordinary undertaking, the memory will remain for a very long time.

To all friends of the school: parents, former King's Scholars, staff and above all students, thank you for all you have done, and be proud of your part in making King's what it indisputably is: one of the great schools of the country.



anis Lauren

## Welcome















Mr David Blackham Director of Rowing

Mr Martin Goff RS and Philosophy

**Ms Hayley Brown** English

Mr Philip Robinson Director of Music Mr Neil Shepherd Head of Maths

Mr James Ward

Miss Miriam Wyatt RS and Philosophy

The year began with many welcomes: the new Leadership Team of Deputy Head **Mrs Kathy Crewe-Read**, Academic Deputy **Mr James Millard** and Pastoral Deputy **Mr Michael Harle**, joined by our Bursar **Mrs Penny Hopkinson** took office. **Mr David Blackham** became Director of Rowing and has already made a significant mark; **Mr Philip Robinson** took over as Director of Music and has already had much success. **Mr Neil Shepherd** became Head of Maths and **Mr James Ward** joined his department; **Ms Hayley Brown** brought to the English Department a new impetus in creative writing, and **Mr Martin Goff** and **Miss Miriam Wyatt** joined the RS and Philosophy Department. All have quickly made major contributions as is evident throughout this year's review.

## Farewell

The year ends with some farewells too. To all these outstanding colleagues we wish good fortune and say a heartfelt thank you.



#### **Dr Peter Bradley**

began his King's career in 1974, teaching Physics (teaching, indeed, several current and former King's parents!). He pioneered ICT, became Director of Studies and has more recently masterminded most of our internal systems for reporting and handling data. Universally known as an unflappable and brilliant 'fixer' he remains with us part-time next year on the support staff, but for all he has done (and it is a huge amount) we are hugely grateful.



#### **Mr Tim Heavisides**

joined us in 2004 as Head of English. He introduced the popular English Language A level, poetry readings and new courses, and piloted the department through ever-more complex exams achieving stunning public exam results (and a regular flow of English Oxbridge successes). He too retires, and will be much missed.



#### Mrs Lynda Beresford

a Maths colleague since 2006, retires too. Highly regarded and loved by her classes, she has guided both the many gifted and the less mathematical of students to their varying successes, with patience and great good humour. She has been a wonderful colleague.



#### Mr Harry Holt

A stroke of good fortune saw him come our way in 2006 when a part-time classicist was needed, and he has been a wonderful, calm, loyal and popular teacher at all levels, most recently (and cheerfully) increasing his contribution as needed. Wise and warm in equal measures, he has been a fine member of our teaching staff.



#### Mr Michael Loach

leaves us too soon, responding (as he must) to the vocation of the Christian ministry. His leadership of Religious Studies and Philosophy has seen numbers soar and successes abound. He introduced the Symposium for Sixth Formers, became indeed Assistant Head of the Sixth Form, and has been a popular, charismatic and engaging classroom practitioner.



#### Mr Martin Tiller

leaves King's to emigrate with his family to Canada. He has been a wonderful and popular Removes Tutor, teacher of ICT and Thinking Skills, and most recently the energetic mastermind of the Duke of Edinburgh award. He too will be much missed.

## Academic report

Last year's A level results were by some way the best ever achieved, with 64.6% of results at A grade and 88.7% of results at A or B grade, both figures being 9% higher than any results in recent years. The aim is to build on this excellence in the coming year.

There were a number of outstanding individual performances, exceptionally led by Sam Menzies, who achieved five A Grades. Twelve students gained four A Grades at A level (Max Ankers, Matthew Cliffe, Bruce Fanshawe, Toby Gurran, Andrew Hales, Daniel Ness, Frazer O'Brien, George Roberts, David Salt, Michael Thorp, James



Wheatley and Simon Younger), whilst a further 27 students secured three A Grades, making a total of 41% of students who achieved at least three A grades.

In the Lower Sixth Sam Lewis and Emma Walker achieved five A Grades at AS level and 19 further

students all gained four A Grades; Abi Banks, James Carr, Sophie Clough, George Cooke, Charlotte Gillies, Rex Harrison, Isabel Hughes, Matt Ireland, Elizabeth James, Mayur Lakshmi, William Moreland, Tim O'Hare, James Oldman, Emily Parker, Srinath Ranjit, Mohammed Sajid, Marcus Torr, Jack Webb and Sam Wilson.





There were further records at GCSE, particularly in total number of A\* and A grades, which accounted for 81.3% of all entries (compared to 71.7% and 72.5% over the last two years). Eleven students gained a full complement of ten A\* Grades; Edward Andrade, Lewis Ankers, Graham Bendall, Joe Benson, Matthew Chadwick, Joe Dillamore, James Ellis, Peter Johnstone, Tom Menzies, Edward Pilkington and Ilina Sen. Six students also scored nine A\* Grades; Hiroshi Amako, Siobhan Barnard, James Goulbourne, Matthew Harle, Robin Johnson, Abi Miller and a total of 38 pupils (40%) achieved A\* or A grades in all subjects.



## Pastoral report

#### An aim for the year: ambition, benevolence and co-operation in all that we do.

So where did the bag racks go? Students have survived and some are now better organised. The school is a much tidier place; next, the bag store! This highlights that the challenge of high expectations can lead to responsible behaviour.

In the Michaelmas term e-safety was highlighted as part of National Anti-bullying week. This was followed by a series of screen saver messages to reinforce safe practice. In the Summer term, Karl Williamson of Cheshire Police gave a series of excellent e-safety talks to all year groups that concentrated on safe social networking and cyberbullying.

The Removes students met regularly with their Sixth Form mentors, reading together or just talking and found this both beneficial and enjoyable. Reading was further highlighted with the Removes taking part in the national Booked Up scheme which allowed them to choose a free reading book from a list of twelve. The Removes also met old boy and author David Whitley in the Michaelmas term.

The Shells have worked creatively and co-operatively in DT to produce components for the 50th Anniversary 2010 sculpture.

3MW prepared a presentation on bullying, interviewing staff and students. They learned a great deal and were able



to pass on their thoughts to the year group. Sixth Form students were also used selectively to mentor some Third Year students. New friendships were forged and friendly guidance given. An embodiment of the school's values which emphasizes an impressive level of support, this was indeed King's students at their best.

Fourth Year 'prefects' and taster day helpers were tremendous; the challenge for them is now to become Fifth Year role models for all younger students. The Model United Nations debate was enthusiastically embraced and professionally executed under the direction of senior prefects.

Student year group councils continue to be a source of ideas (and requests for greater access to chocolate). There are plans for whole school meetings next year.

Formal meetings during tutor time is one use for the new seating in the gallery, requested by the Fifth Year, but widely used by all year groups. Many thanks to the KSPA for the generous funding.

# Travel

King's students are definitely going places... from the jungles of Borneo, to deep beneath Switzerland on a visit to the giant Hadron Collider at CERN.

# UK trips

#### ULLSWATER (1)



The Third Year Outward Bound week at Ullswater enjoyed weather that was unexpectedly good; little wind, clear skies and sunshine! The traverse around a rocky buttress followed by a high jump into the lake was therefore a treat as well as a challenge. The only casualties were gorge walking, due to low water levels and sailing, which was leisurely to say the least and led to lots of games and dry capsize practices.

The expeditions were a great success and outdoor climbing on dry rock was experienced by all. One of the highlights was the wide range of rafts built using the credit gained through successful orienteering; some floated, some sank and some were sabotaged, but everyone ended up wet and happy, if a little tired. The trip to Ullswater, however, is much more than a series of outdoor activities. Kurt Hahn, the co-founder of Outward Bound, was convinced that, "We are better than we know; if only we can be brought to realise this, we may never again be prepared to settle for anything less." Many students exceeded their own expectations and would do well to remember this success.

#### MANOR ADVENTURE CENTRE (2)



Early in September, the Removes visited the Manor Adventure Centre for three days of outdoor activities and team building. The entire year group went as one unit: on arrival, the centre staff gave the pupils a quick tour of the site and facilities, and almost immediately, the first activity began. Pupils enjoyed a range of exciting and fun activities such as archery, rifle shooting, and fencing. One of the most popular activities was the confidence course which involved the pupils climbing high up into the trees by walking along balance beams, climbing precarious steps and shinning across poles. In complete contrast, another popular activity was the underground maze where pupils found their way through a series of narrow and low tunnels, up to their shins in muddy water, with only a small head torch to help them.

A great team activity was crate stacking where the groups had to work together to try to build the tallest tower of crates they could with one of their team perched on the top. Another popular activity was abseiling down a tall, wooden tower. Activities went on until dusk. Evenings were spent in tutor groups doing a quiz or questionnaire and there was some free time during the day to play football on the fields or visit the vending machines. The trip enabled pupils to make new friends and get to know their tutors at the start of the academic year, but more importantly to demonstrate a sense of belonging to a shared experience and vision.

#### MONMOUTH ROWING TOUR (3)



The tour to Monmouth gave many of the U14 rowing squad their first taste of a sports tour, as 32 pupils and a coaching team of six headed for South Wales in the first week of the Easter holidays. Although the weather was not kind, all the crews trained well and completed a good amount of distance on the water.

In between sessions, runs up the local mountains and video analysis of the day's rowing certainly helped to add variation to the day. The camp was a great success and enjoyed by all, as well as giving all the junior crews in the rowing club the extra preparation needed to be ready for the summer rowing schedule and regattas.

# World trips

#### RS/Philosophy Trip to Krakow (1)



In February, the RS and Philosophy department ran their second trip to Krakow aimed at supporting GCSE and A level students in their study of units on Religious Experience and the Problem of Evil. Braving extremely cold conditions, the party enjoyed three days in the ancient Polish capital, experiencing tours of the City, regional cuisine, traditional dancing, skating and snowball fights!

Yet without doubt for the majority, the most poignant and lasting memory will be that of the visit to the notorious extermination camps of Auschwitz and Birkenau. All students had learnt in advance of the horrors that had been perpetrated in these places, but often the concept of evil remains an abstract until one comes face to face with man's capacity for cruelty and violence.

#### CERN (2)



In December, a group of U6 Physicists and staff visited CERN in Geneva on the Department's annual trip. There they were given lectures by working scientists, shown around the facility and visited the Computing Centre (not only famous for inventing the World Wide Web but now pioneering new processing techniques). They were also able to get some hands on experience in the interactive area of the CERN complex.

#### STOWE SKI TRIP (3)



At the end of March, 35 students and staff set out for JFK. New York, via Amsterdam. In New York, the group were treated to a tour given by a captivating and native New Yorker and had the chance to visit many places of interest, including the Dakota Hotel near Central Park, ground zero, the Chrysler building, Brooklyn Bridge, the Five Points, 5th Avenue, the Rockerfeller Centre and the famous Hard Rock Cafe.

Ski conditions were acceptable, although a little slushy at the start. Nevertheless, the students were keen to get onto the slopes. The weather did improve as the week went on and the sun was shining brightly by the end of the week. During the evenings, pupils enjoyed a range of activities including swimming, pool, table tennis, a trip to the cinema, bowling and a trip to Ben and Jerry's ice-cream factory.

An evening in Boston provided a quick opportunity to see the city's park and have some food at the famous 'Cheers' bar. The whole visit was a fantastic experience and enjoyed by all.

#### GHENT ROWING TOUR (4)



60 pupils and eight coaches headed to Ghent in Belgium for the annual rowing club training camp. The tour, held over the last week of the Easter holidays gave many of the club their first taste of international level competition. After four days of hard training on the lake on the outskirts of Ghent, crews from all the squads competed in the International Regatta.

The crews from King's competed with drive and passion as they dominated many of the junior events. The 1st VIII capped an exciting tour by winning the Junior Men's VIIIs on both days and with that being crowned Flemish champions. The Girls' 1st VIII produced a strong result finishing an overall third in the Open Women's event. Overall the tour helped prepare all the King's crews for the summer racing, the National Schools Regatta and Henley.

#### LEIPZIG EXCHANGE (5)



In March, ten pupils from the Third and Fourth Years set out for an eight-day language exchange to Leipzig. As well as spending time with their host family, the pupils took part in many visits including tours of Berlin, Dresden and, of course, Leipzig. The group also spent some time at the Evangelisches Schulzentrum, Leipzig, where they attended a variety of lessons with their exchange partners.

The exchange was greatly enjoyed by all and as ever proved to be an enriching social, cultural and linguistic experience.

#### RONDA CULTURAL EXCHANGE (6)



In October and November, 20 pupils from the Third Year to the Upper Sixth took part in a cultural exchange to Ronda in Andalucía as part of the first exchange with Colegio Fernando de los Ríos in Ronda, a small city situated in the mountain range above the Costa del Sol.

They spent eleven days totally immersed in Spanish society, and enjoyed a range of visits and activities including a visit to the Alhambra in Granada, a day in Seville including a tour of the famous cathedral, a day in Jerez de la Frontera which included a visit to the riding school to see the dancing horses and a tour of the Sherry factory, and a day on the coast in Marbella.

They also spent a day at Seville's famous theme park 'La Isla Mágica'. The weather was incredibly hot for the time of year, and the pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience, learnt a lot of Spanish and did not want to come home! For many, it has formed the beginnings of some possible long-lasting relationships, as many pupils will be visiting their families again in the summer and their partners may come over here to visit again.

#### FRENCH CULTURAL EXCHANGE (7)



At the start of the Easter holidays, 19 pupils from the Fourth Year and the Lower Sixth together with staff, took part in a French exchange with Lycée Aubanel in Avignon. The party had the opportunity to spend a half-day at the school and attend lessons with their exchange partners.

Activities and visits included a trip to the Pont du Gard, guided tours of the Palais des Papes and Avignon's famous bridge, the Roman city of Arles and the fortified town of Aigues Mortes in the heart of the Camargue Regional Park. They also explored the traditional Provençal villages of Les Baux and Roussillon situated in areas of outstanding natural beauty.

One of the highlights of the visit was a high rope course in a forest of the Vaucluse. When not involved in group activities, the pupils spent valuable time with their host families, improving their linguistic skills and enjoying first-hand experience of French culture. We are looking forward to the return visit of the French party in September. As with the Spanish exchange, the trip served to foster independence, openness and respect, values which are increasingly important today.

#### TANZANIA BIODIVERSITY EXPEDITION (8)



In July, the fourth School expedition to the world's biodiversity hotspots took 15 students and staff to Tanzania, for a 15 day study of the forests, savannahs and coral reefs of this diverse country. The group travelled first to the Udzungwa Mountains National Park.

The Udzungwas form part of the Eastern Arc Mountains, referred to as "the Galapagos Islands of Africa" as it is a centre of endemism and one of the world's 34 biodiversity hotspots with such species as Iringa Red Colobus monkeys, African Violet and Pygmy Bearded Chameleon.

From the Udzungwas the group travelled to Mikumi National Park, observing wildlife on safari. Mikumi, together with the Selous game reserve which adjoins it, forms the biggest area of land devoted to wildlife in Africa and in fact is second only in size, as a conservation area, to Antarctica. Small groups now had the chance to observe Giraffe, Zebra, Buffalo, Impala, Hippo, Crocodile, Lion, Hyena, Wildebeest and particularly Elephants.

Next came the underwater part of the expedition on Zanzibar where all participants successfully qualified as PADI Open Water Divers and most gained Advanced Open Water Certification. Having achieved this the group could begin to better appreciate life on the reef observing Green Turtle, Black Tipped Reef Shark, Blue Spotted Ribbon Tail Stingray, Octopus, Lionfish, Scorpionfish, Barracuda and Bottlenose Dolphins, amongst many others.

#### BORNEO EXPEDITION (9)



In the Summer, a group of eleven Sixth Form students spent four weeks exploring the Sabah region of Borneo as part of a personal development expedition. The trip itself was a culmination of 18 months fundraising and team development.

The team learnt how to survive in the jungle and cope with the resident leeches, trekked around the beautiful region surrounding Mt Kinabalu, helped replant primary jungle on the banks of the Kinabatangan River and build paths for an eco lodge. The students emerged themselves in the life of the Borneo people by staying in Homestays and finally relaxed by going white water rafting, visiting the Orangutan sanctuary, snorkelling off the beautiful TAR islands and enjoying the sights and smells of one of the busiest nightmarkets in the Malaysian world of Kota Kinabalu.

#### THE HAGUE INTERNATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS (THIMUN) (10)



For the first time students from King's School attended the THIMUN conference. This is the largest of its kind in the world for school pupils and attracts 3,200 participants. There were students from 98 different countries present, with the furthest afield coming from Australia and South America. The delegates' aim is to pass resolutions on topics of global significance that they have written, lobbying and merging these resolutions, whilst representing the views of their assigned country. A merged resolution may thus have contributions from 15 students before completion.

During debate (in a group of around 130 to 180) the resolution remains a "live document" and may be amended. Resolutions that pass in Plenary and those that pass with a large majority at committee stage will move to the THIMUN booklet that is presented annually to the UN in New York. (THIMUN is a Non-Governmental Organisation).

#### THE WESTERN FRONT IN WORLD WAR ONE (4 & 11)



In October, 62 pupils embarked on a six day tour of the battlefields of France and Belgium. The group visited the graves and memorials of 13 of the 52 Old King's Scholars who fell on the Western Front, laying wreaths and carrying out poignant acts of commemoration. The tour got as far as the dramatic fortresses of Verdun as well as Ypres, the Somme and Cambrai where the group were given an exclusive viewing of the recovered tank D51 ('Deborah') whose commander at the great battle was the great-grandfather of the trip leader. Mr Heap.

There were memorable moments such as the visit to the grave of celebrated poet Wilfred Owen and remembering two OKS (both Royal Flying Corps men) at Larch Wood Cemetery, where they are buried at either end of the same row. As ever, the dignity and outstanding behaviour of our pupils was a fitting tribute to our heroes.

#### THE CÔTE OPALE, NORTHERN FRANCE (12)



October saw 43 Shells and Third Year pupils visiting the Côte Opale. First stop was the bakery in Hardelot, where students were taken inside to see the old wood-burning stove (bread cooked in a wood stove lasts five days longer than that cooked in an oven); the students were even set loose to try their hand at making a croissant. Later that day, after a walk around the ramparts of the pretty old town of Montreuil, the students were taken to a chocolate factory. This too had been anticipated with great enthusiasm and the trip met the students expectations. The following day was spent in the market in Le Touquet in the morning and the aquarium in Boulogne in the afternoon.

The final day involved a visit to Rouen, the city where Joan of Arc (burnt as a heretic, later a Saint) was burnt at the stake. The students appreciated the Old Market Square and the pretty buildings and the teachers enjoyed a most welcome coffee in a small street café. After so much culture the final evening was bowling, a presentation and a disco. The presentations varied from the one who tried the hardest to speak French to the one who asked the daftest questions!



# Departments

We encourage academic departments to go be rond exam needs and basic teaching, and to unleash the passions of staff and the desire for learning felt by students. Each year we highlight a few departments which have showcased notable achievements, and describe some of the more impressive or unusual of our many activities.

## English



In the last twelve months there have been visits by four authors to The King's School. Last May, the Poet Laureate, Carol Ann Duffy, read to pupils from the Junior School, as well as pupils from local primary schools; last June, Simon Armitage came to King's to lead a poetry workshop for the Lower Sixth and then gave a reading to the entire Fourth Year and Lower Sixth.

In September, up and coming children's author and former King's Scholar, David Whitley, gave readings from his debut novel, 'Midnight Charter' to Remove pupils, and last month, another local author, Jon Mayhew, read extracts from his horror-fantasy novel, 'Mortlock' which went down very well with his Shells audience.

In March, Ms Brown took a group of Sixth Formers on a weekend writing workshop to Inglewood Manor which was very successful. Kate Procter (L6) gained a runner's up prize in the prestigious Tower Poetry Competition, sponsored by Christ Church College, Oxford.

## Maths



Record public exam performances were complemented by successes in competitions this year and over half the entrants gained certificates in this year's UK Mathematical Trust Challenges.

As a result of their outstanding performances in the Challenges, Siobhan Barnard (L6), Luke Howarth (5ths), Matthew Hill, Jeremy Telford, Sean Telford, Matthew Temple (4ths) and Eleanor Barnard (3rds) were invited to take part the UK Mathematical Olympiad, and James Barnard and Jack Salisbury (5ths), Peter Boothroyd, Charlie Mayes and Cameron Thompson (3rds) sat the European Kangaroo.

Teams also represented King's in the UK Team Mathematics Challenges. The senior team - William Moreland, Jack Webb (U6), Siobhan Barnard and Joe Dillamore (L6) - came second in their regional final, whilst the juniors - Oscar Lloyd-Williams, Charlie Mayes (3rds), Victoria Walker and James Cope (Shells) - were fourth.

In full school assembly six Sixth Formers and staff proposed candidates for their "Maths Idol", a vote which was won comfortably by James Carr's campaign on behalf of Pythagoras, hooking 163 of the 548 votes cast.

The Maths department runs a Puzzle of the Week on its website, which saw notable prizes go to Sean Telford (4ths), Ben Moss (L6), Ryan Thompson (5ths) and Haran Makwara (Removes).



## **Biology**





Notable visits this year included the two week Biodiversity expedition to Tanzania, and an excellent series of visits by the Sixth Form to the Nowgen Genetics centre in Manchester where students cloned and profiled their own DNA.

Visiting speakers included representatives from the Huntington's Disease Association UK, who gave the Fifth Year a real insight into living with this terrible disease, and Simon Airey of Corner Exotics who gave members of the Biodiversity club some hands on contact with a range of organisms from snakes to scorpions.

Enhancing the School's biodiversity continued with successful use of the school pond by a visiting pair of Mallards and a pair of Blue Tits using one of the Biodiversity club's nestboxes - both filmed using hidden cameras installed outside the Biology department and displayed on the departments LCD screen outside room 38.

In the 2010 annual National Biology Challenge, Sean Telford gained a Gold award and Matthew Barrett, William Marshall and Jeremy Telford (4ths) achieved Silver awards.

In the prestigious 2010 National Good School Guide Awards, the Biology Department and its students won the award for the best A level results gained by Girls at any English Independent School.

#### Physics



In the Summer, four Sixth Formers (Jason Brewer, Matthew Robinson, Poormina Nargala and Matthew Ireland) studying A level Physics joined The Photonics Academy at OpTIK in St. Asaph for a four week Summer School. They had to solve a practical problem of their choice through the use of lasers and were awarded Nuffield Bursaries (Wales) and gained Crest Awards for their work. Matthew Ireland was also chosen to be Student of the Year at the Academy. Cassie Buffy and Isobel Hughes (U6) also won Nuffield Bursaries (England) and after presenting their projects were awarded Crest Gold awards. Despite being younger than other competitors, James Edholm (L6) was also invited along to participate since he had showed such a high level of commitment to the Summer school. This Summer there is no official Summer school being held at OpTIK but once again James Edholm has been invited to work in the Academy along with Ben Moss. Graham Bendall and Siobhan Barnard (L6) have also won Nuffield Bursaries to Summer schools elsewhere. Matthew Chadwick (L6) has arranged his own engineering experience for the Summer.

Matthew Harle and James Edholm (L6) were successful in applications through Headstart to go down to Cambridge this term to experience a week with the Materials department of the university.

## Design Technology



This year marked a period that well and truly put The King's School Design & Technology ability on the national map, with a number of the pupils competing in prestigious competitions.

Earlier in the year, four of the students competed against hundreds of pupils from across the country for an Arkwright Engineering Scholarship. This highly regarded award gives students financial support through their A levels and an Industrial Partner to prepare them for engineering study and employment. Annabelle Church, Matthew Harle and Morgan Jones (L6) secured awards following a rigorous interview process, while William Leaman (L6) was short-listed and highly commended.

More recently, Andrew Walton (U6) submitted his Travel Companion & GPS concept for the Young Designers Competition with Brunel University. From over one thousand young designers, Andrew was short-listed in a group of twelve and attended an interview in London. His work was highly commended by the judging panel made up of professional designers, engineers and academics. Andrew is intending to study Industrial Design Engineering at Loughborough University.

### Geography



In October, Andrew Gerrard in Removes successfully entered a national competition run by the Ordnance Survey. He is one of twelve winners and has won a day out with the Field Studies Council (FSC) in August to take place in Somerset.

Andrew used his map reading skills to assist him in writing his competition entry and the Geography staff congratulate him on his marvellous achievement. Joe Benson (L6), the Royal Geographical Society's Young Geographer of the Year 2009, also continued his contribution to academic leadership this year, presenting in a school assembly the findings from his Iceland expedition, his prize for the national recognition he obtained.

## Language Debating



Five Sixth Form linguists - Ilina Sen, Charlotte Gillies, Caitlin Deering, Jonathan Rodger and Oscar Hayward took part in the third annual Northern Schools' MFL debating competition in French, German and Spanish.

All performed well; particular congratulations go to Caitlin Deering and Jonathan Rodger who were the overall winners of the Spanish competition.

## King's eye

### Drama





From a Sixth Form premiere of Mamet's *Vikings and Darwin* at the National, to a whole-school production of the epic musical *Les Misérables* and with a middle-school *As You Like It*, this has been a magnificent year for drama at King's.

Les Mis was designed and directed by the newly-arrived Director of Music, Mr Robinson, and the Head of Sixth Form, Mr Hughes. Equally fortunate has been the School's connection with Emma Lucia of Theatre Clwyd, who led the Sixth Form team through local and regional stages to the accolade of being amongst only twelve schools from the UK to be selected to perform at the climax of the Connections Festival on the stage of the Cottesloe.

From there it was but a small step to the Forest of Arden, which Emma and a company of Third and Fourth Years re-created for an outdoor promenade performance in June.





King's pupils have continued to do well in their Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music and Trinity Guildhall music examinations: the largest ever number of pupils sat practical examinations (130), with an overall pass rate of over 98%, and grade 8 achieved by Sixth Formers, Sebastian Fayle

(guitar), David Roberts (trumpet), Peter Johnstone (trombone, with merit) and Hiroshi Amako (violin and piano, both with distinction). Fourth Year student, Rachel Alcock (treble recorder) also achieved grade 8. The year has also had a full concert programme, with highlights that include the *Battle of the Bands*, two Choral Evensong services at Chester Cathedral, high quality performances of substantial works such as Telemann's *Concerto for Viola and Strings* (William Tyson, soloist), Haydn's *Symphony No. 104* and Rutter's *Requiem*, as well as the stunning production of *Les Misérables* mentioned opposite.

Strong links have been established with the Royal Northern College of Music with the introduction of a successful series of RNCM Lunchtime Recitals featuring pianists and chamber ensembles, plus a visit from the RNCM Wind Orchestra, who rehearsed and performed together with the King's Concert Band.

The Music Department has continued the tradition of inviting high quality musicians to visit King's, including masterclasses with renowned pianist John Gough and members of the Hallé. King's pupils have performed extensively in the local community, giving concerts at St. Werburgh's Catholic Church, St. John's Church and Chester Cathedral. In addition, a substantial amount of money has been raised for charity during the course of the year, notably over £500 from a series of performances in December.

King's pupils have continued to represent the school in both regional and national ensembles: Zara Fyfe (U6) gained a place in the National Youth Choir of Great Britain and will be going on to study at Trinity College of Music in September. Eleanor Sowden (L6) has sung again in the NYC Training Choir this year, and Hiroshi Amako (L6) has been a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Wales. Joseph Bentley (L6) also successfully auditioned for the National Youth Brass Band of Wales, and Edward Andrade (L6) gained his Associate of Trinity College, London (ATCL) diploma in clarinet earlier this year at the age of 17.

King's was very well represented in the final of the Young Composers Project, part of the RNCM New Music North West festival in November. Edward Andrade, Sebastian Fayle (L6) and Selim Ungut (5ths) were all selected to write a new work based on a motif penned by Sir Peter Maxwell Davies. Their compositions were then performed during the festival at the RNCM by Ensemble 10/10. Selim Ungut was also invited to perform Chopin's *Mazurka Op.50 No.2* at the RNCM as part of their Keyboard Weekend, which celebrated the 200th Anniversary of the birth of the composer Frédéric Chopin. King's was one of a very small number of top independent schools to be selected to take part in the festival.

## Wickson Library



The library celebrated World Book Day in March, with competitions for staff and students, including a 'Murder Mystery': also celebrated was National Storytelling Week, in which staff and pupils read from their favourite works through lunchtimes and breaktimes.

The library has also entered a team of four Remove pupils into the Cheshire Schools' Book Quiz for the first time this year. This team worked very hard throughout the year, qualifying in the top four schools in Cheshire. They were then successful in winning the competition, beating three other schools in the live final in Chester in May.

arities



An effective year began with Operation Christmas Child. The school put together their boxes and a small team of 24 students worked to collect, check and encourage. The team gave up a Friday evening to take the shoeboxes to the depot in North Wales and helped to pack, check again and fill up many shoeboxes which were being shipped out to Eastern Europe.

As the school year continued, the pupils were involved in Haiti fundraising, work for SURF (a Rwandan Survivors' Fund) and Amnesty International. Pupils raised awareness through the excellent Fair trade café, and funds via various cake sales. Behind the scenes Fourth Year pupils also took part in a charity bicycle ride from Chester to Abersoch. Their humility, energy and thought for others is a constant inspiration.

A group of Fourth Year pupils also gave up a day during their half term to travel to Manchester and dig gardens in an urban renewal scheme.

King's students enjoy much privilege, but are increasingly showing a desire to serve others - and by doing so, they illustrate the values of the school in action.

## Community 🕵



After 18 months of fundraising throughout the school, the Madagascar Primary School project at Ambohimandroso was completed in late 2009.

The new school has two classrooms and is large enough to provide primary education not only for the village of Ambohimandroso, but also for those who live further afield. The original school had been destroyed during a storm a number of years earlier.

In addition to the building of the school, fundraising events in 2010 have helped pay for the construction of a gravity-fed water system. This system provides the children with fresh water for drinking and cleaning.

The King's School worked closely on this project with the Madagascar Development Fund (MDF), which was set up by former British Ambassador, Brian Donaldson, after the closure of the British Embassy in the capital, Antananarivo, as part of a package of economies.

MDF identified this project and have been responsible for managing it from the start. It is hoped that students from King's will be able to visit the school in the next few years.

In total £8610 was raised by students, parents, governors and staff.







A great deal of cadet activity took place over the summer in addition to two Annual Camps: James Edholm (L6) successfully completed a Gliding Scholarship, flying solo and gaining a commendation for further training; he and Graham Bendall (L6) also completed the prestigious Air Cadet Leadership Course and the CCF Band, under the leadership of Matt Ireland (U6), had a very successful trip to London.

Libby Anderson made it to the final five for the Duke of Westminster Award, an award for which over 10,000 cadets are eligible to be nominated, winning a threeweek trip to South Africa and the Director's Prize.

The academic year began with the CCF "Past and Present" Dinner. Soon after, six cadets took part in the Cadet Skill At Arms Meeting. The team was third and Jonathan Reid (U6) second in the individual shoot. In October, Ben Moss (L6) completed his Air Cadet Pilot Scheme, receiving an extremely positive report. Some 60 cadets represented the School in Chester at the Remembrance Day Parade and the CCF Band was once again asked to play at Birkenhead's Parade.

For its Biennial Review, the Contingent was inspected by the Brigade Commander of 42 (NW) Brigade who was very impressed by the standard of leadership of the senior cadets and the Contingent was honoured to be joined on one parade by some World War II veterans.

Graham Bendall and James Edholm were both 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 to be chosen for this award in two years is a great achievement.

William Everett (L6) gained a Gliding Scholarship in the Summer term and Dona Kumar (5ths) secured a place on the ACLC.

As cadets around the UK are celebrating "Cadet 150", The King's School, Chester, CCF is looking forward to celebrating its own 30th anniversary in September.

### Duke of Edinburgh



Just under eighty percent of the Third Years have signed up to the DofE scheme and just under half of the Fourth Year are involved at Silver level. As usual, everyone at Bronze level starts with walking as their mode of transport, but this year we have another first for King's as ten students have elected to do kayaking for their Silver expedition.

Mr Parry has been training up the students in the school boats so that they achieve two star status before going on to complete their practice and assessment expeditions on something a little more demanding than the Kings' swimming pool.

Gold is still going strong, with two recent groups achieving some positively glowing feedback from our external assessors; at this highly-demanding level of the scheme, accolades of this nature are few and far between, so this is worthy praise indeed for the teams undertaking their training this year!





# The King's School

Colouring their lives forever...

# Clubs

The range of clubs, societies and activities is beyond the scope of King's Eye: instead, we highlight below this year's new additions to the programme.

### Chess



In October, 143 students from across the region took part in the Cheshire and North Wales Chess Championships hosted this year at King's.

Four King's students became county champions; James Carr U18, Marvin Hayes U16, Davin Menon U15 and Owen Edwards U10. Tim Pemberton U17, Douglas Forster U17 and Oscar Lloyd Williams U14 were all runners up, whilst Susan Gorman U14 and Matthew Brindley U14 were third in their respective groups. These individual successes resulted in King's becoming the Secondary School Champions.

April saw further success with 16 King's students qualifying for the Regional Mega Final of the British Land Challenge Chess Championships. James, Marvin, Davin, Emily Moss and Sam Arshad-Roberts all achieved first place in their groups whilst Susan Gorman and Rhys Dowinton were both runners up. All of these students as well as Tim Pemberton gained enough points to qualify for the North of England Giga Final this Summer.

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.

#### Creative Writing Group



The King's Creative Writing Group held its inaugural meeting at the beginning of term and has since met regularly under the aegis of Ms Brown in the English Department. The group is open to all students in Fourth Year to Sixth Form and has attracted members across all years.

A creative writing day school was held in March at Inglewood Manor on the Wirral and 14 students received tuition from Barry Simner, a respected screen writer and playwright. This was a valuable opportunity for students to develop their ideas under the careful direction and guidance of a professional writer who certainly fired their enthusiasm.

Members of the group have also had success in national writing competitions, notably Kate Procter (L6), whose entry for the prestigious Christopher Tower Poetry Competition 2010 (based at Christ Church, Oxford) was placed on the judges 'long list'.



This new club, coached by Latvian champion, Valeris Scipanova, had a fabulous end to the season, winning silver at Cheshire High School Fencing Tournament. The situation before the finals was really intriguing as all schools had one win from the previous rounds.



At the finals, King's fenced last year's winners - Tarporley High School (very much more experienced fencers) and won 3:2. Special praise goes to Rosemary Lavender (3rds) who scored 15 points running in her fight and brought the victory to King's from being 3:18 down.

The trophy and gold medal position was fought for in a team captains' fight. Oliver Bradley (4ths) faced a much more experienced Bishop's captain and in a very tense fight Bishop's were victorious.

The King's silver medallists were: Rosemary Lavender, Luke Williams, Oliver Bradley (Removes), Bede Timpson, Josh Roberts, Adam Young, Sara Ashworth (3rds), Oliver Berry and Jack Stirrup (4ths) and Harry Ashworth (5ths). The club always welcomes new members - no experience is necessary - and exemplifies the spirit of trying new things and being open to challenges.



Despite its innocuous-sounding name, Games Club is the portal to other worlds... and has continued to be a popular extra-curricular activity for King's pupils, with members ranging from Removes to the Lower Sixth. Mr Tiller and Mr Ward have been instrumental in capturing the pupils imagination this year with a diverse range of games: strategy, role play and table top war gaming. Pupils have enjoyed playing games such as Killer Bunnies, Ingenious and Perudo; as well as trying their hand at Viking Kubb during the Summer term. The Club has also hosted two inter-school matches against Sandbach School, who are National War Games Finalists. The latest clash saw a pupil in J4 compete against a Sandbach Sixth Former. The annual painting competition is the final fixture of the year and will take place in Games Workshop in Chester.

## Geography Society



Geog Soc membership has increased six fold this year and the society has been able to contribute to a diverse range of initiatives. The pupils have continued to run monthly Fair trade Tuckshops which are as popular as ever. The Society has also held two Fair trade Cafés in the Sixth Form lecture theatre. Pupils and staff have provided the entertainment and Fair trade juice and biscuits were sold. These events have raised in excess of £1500 for Water Aid as well as raising awareness of global trade issues.

Geog Soc is working towards making King's a more sustainable community and have developed an action plan to improve energy efficiency, awareness of global issues and water conservation to name but a few of the ideas. Furthermore, the pupils are currently producing an online geographical journal called Eco-Eye. Geog Soc has the ultimate aim of achieving Eco-school and Fair trade Status for King's and hopes to report this in next year's edition of King's Eye.

#### Isms

Another new society tested the Head of School team's announcement sight-reading at the start of the year: this introduced students to major philosophical movements, with discussions led by staff and students themselves on such '-isms' as Fascism and the alternative political system Communism, Anarchism (provocatively led by Mr Michael Loach), Conservatism, Feminism, Thatcherism, Absurdism and others. Independence of thought and informed debate were and continue to be the order of the day.

### Russian





Earlier this year Mrs Ignata, Lithuanian but fluent in Russian, founded The Russian Language Club. There are now a number of senior pupils attending along with one other particularly enthusiastic and hardworking member, namely Headmaster, Mr Ramsey!

Students have learnt to introduce themselves, count, hold a short conversation, and have begun now to study Russian Grammar, which is quite complex. It is always interesting to learn of other cultures and Russia, in particular, has much to offer.

Two of the members of the club Kallum Marsden and Ketan Dhital (5ths) prepared an assembly with a Russian theme, and members also enjoyed a visit from a guest speaker from Chester Cathedral, Vice Dean, the Revd Cannon Dr Trevor Dennis. Talking, listening, reading and writing are all skills we value highly at King's and studying any new language inspires and enriches.

## Water Polo



Brave boys and girls from Removes to Third Year have been grappling all year with the seemingly endless list of rules in one of the roughest and most energysapping of games. With all of these areas they have been truly successful, regularly attending training sessions on a Thursday lunchtime.

Developing ball skills and awareness of space have been the major focus so far this year, and great improvements have been seen in all team members. This has culminated in the first competitive game for the team against Chester City baths, which resulted in a fine victory demonstrating the hard work the team has put into their passing game.

More matches for next year are being scheduled, with talk of a round robin tournament with Chester City and Christleton School. Those leaving the Junior team this year will have the opportunity to play amongst the newly formed Senior team. It is a pleasure to see a new sport accepted and taken up with such vigour.

# Sixth Form

In September, the year started with a new Head of School team, Oscar Hayward, Daniel Titmuss and Emily Parker, along with an Assistant Head of Sixth Form, Mr Loach, all of whom performed their roles with great aplomb. The first cohort of Extended Project students completed their 5000 word essays and gave some wonderful presentations on the research they had conducted, much of it of undergraduate standard.



In an extremely competitive environment many students gained excellent offers from universities including six Oxbridge offers and eleven offers for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary as well as many more in the Russell Group and top 30 universities.

Outside of the classroom there were a huge number of achievements in the Sixth Form this year, too many to mention, with rowers gaining GB trial places, a cricketer representing MCC, a musician representing the National Youth Choir, MUN delegations performing around the country and political debate with local parliamentary candidates. Alongside award-winning poetry, singers, actors and technicians performing in *Les Misérables*, ISFA football representatives, not to mention all those students who have been actively involved in the sporting life of the school in matches and the artistic life of the school in musical performances.

The Sixth Form have also been helping other students in the school this year with the Upper Sixth meeting Removes students to help them read and a mentoring system for Sixth Formers to help students lower down the school with their work, engendering a real sense of community.

#### King's Sixth Form leavers 2009:

#### Destinations to



King's eye

King's Sixth Form leavers 2009:

#### Destinations to Russell Group Universities



# Sport

Sport plays a huge part in the lives of King's students. Within school the range continues to grow, with fencing and basketball now popular and successful. An increasingly impressive Equestrian team has enjoyed successes out of school, and weekly reports of all sport on the school's website continue to be amongst the most-visited pages. King's is undoubtedly the leader when it comes to school sport.

## Rowing



The J14 squad showed good promise throughout the season, and the training camp at Easter was attended by 32 pupils who trained hard for the week. The season opener at Hampton head was very encouraging with two boys' octuples in the top five crews and the girls' octuple coming in 6th place.

This was further enhanced at the Schools' Head, where the boys' side was represented by three octuples and the girls by a further octuple. Finish positions of 2nd in the As, 3rd in the Bs and 4th in the Cs further enhanced the club as one of the leading J14 schools in the country. The girls performed well with a 6th position. Gearing up to the National Schools Regatta, all 52 members of the J14 squad represented the school at either Wallingford or Shrewsbury Regatta with notable wins over Shrewsbury school at the latter. At the National Schools Regatta the boys came 4th in both the A and B Octuple finals, the girls won the first King's School medal in a girls' event by winning a bronze in the coxed quad event.

The J15 squad competed throughout the head season with three boys' VIIIs and one girls' VIII. Strong performances throughout the head season, most markedly the boys' A VIII winning at Hampton head and the B VIII coming in 2nd, provided a good set of schools head results. The boys' championship VIII came in 2nd, the 2nd VIII came 3rd in the 2nd VIII category and the 3rd VIII 10th in the same category. The girls' VIII came 8th in the J15 Girls' category. 30 members of the J15 squad attended the training camp in Ghent where many of them competed in their first ever international event. On return, encouraging performances at Wallingford, Shrewsbury and Nottingham City Regattas led to a very mixed set of results at the National Schools Regatta. The boys' championship VIII qualified well for the final but fell off the pace at 1000 metres and came in an eventual 5th. The boys' 2nd VIII looked a league apart from their opposition all day and won the 2nd VIIIs trophy by over two lengths in the final. 24 boys and nine girls progress to their respective senior squads with national and international racing experience and will continue to develop as senior rowers.

The senior girls' squad put in some memorable performances in what was over two thirds of the squad's first season on the senior circuit. All members attended the senior training camp in Ghent after an encouraging 9th position at the Schools Head of the river in championship VIIIs. The 1st VIII came an excellent 5th at Wallingford Regatta and followed this up by wins at both Chester and Shrewsbury Regatta in preparation for the nationals. At the National Schools Regatta the VIII raced well in their heat to finish 3rd. The girls raced hard over the 2000 metre course to finish a close 3rd, with less than a length between the first three crews.

The senior boys' squad raced as a J16 and 1st VIII throughout the season. Notable performances for the J16 squad included wins at Peterborough head and a very solid 4th position at the Schools Head of the river. A coxed four comprising of four of the J16 squad produced the row of the training camp to win the Flemish U18 coxed fours competition in Ghent. Summer performances were mixed but a second at the Inter-Regional's Regatta and a 4th position for the top four in the coxless fours at the National Schools Regatta has given many of the boys the experience and racing they need to progress to the next stage in the senior squad.



The Boys' 1st VIII produced some excellent head race results including a five year best at the Schools Head to come 5th overall, the result reflecting the wins that the group had achieved throughout the head race season. The VIII followed this result up with back-to-back wins at Ghent Regatta crowning them as Flemish U18 champions. The crew broke down into fours to also win the coxless fours event - winning medals in the coxless pairs. The regatta season saw mixed results with good performances at Wallingford Regatta. The performance at the Nationals Schools Regatta in the VIII was a disappointing 10th position but in many ways redeemed on the Sunday with the crew winning a silver in the coxless fours and a bronze in the coxed fours, showing their pedigree on the national stage.

Oliver Holt, Inigo Atkins, James Kinsey and Sam Wilson (U6) have produced excellent results so far on the GB pathway. After coming in 3rd and 4th at the long distance trials in February in coxless pairs, Sam Wilson and James Kinsey were invited to compete for Great Britain at Munich Regatta where both boys medalled in the VIIIs.



At the end of another busy season the bold statistics will show that the school played nearly 230 fixtures, winning over half of them. This is by any standards a

tremendous achievement and confirms our status as one of the country's leading football schools.

The match reports are available for all to read on the school website and from those reports the final words from our coaches give a fair summary of the campaign.

Mr Wheeler sums up the season as a whole, not just for the 1st XI but for the whole school when writing about the late and undeserved defeat in the semi-final of the Merseyside Shield, a wonderful and prestigious competition the team were unlucky not to win last year. He wrote: 'It would have been nice to have reached the final, but today's performance despite the defeat reflected the efforts of a team who can look back on the season with pride.'

Mr Yalland wrote of the U15 squad thanking 'all of this squad of players for everything they have given me this season, not only in footballing terms (and that in itself is an incredibly high standard) but for being such a wonderful group of players to work with: they had an attitude you could not fault and which is all too rare.'

Mr Punnett continues the theme: 'It has been a pleasure to have been with you this season: thanks to all of you, boys and parents alike, for your commitment, enthusiasm and support, and most of all, joy. That is what sport is all about.'

Meanwhile Mr Lunn wrote about his U11 team who went undefeated in their first term of 'senior' football: 'This game was an apt end to the year, as it provided a microcosm of the season. King's were at times sublime, but a slow start and an inability to play the basics for the full 60 minutes allowed the opposition rather more chances than they should have had. Having said this, great skill was evident, from hardworking and committed players.'

The 2nd XI gave Messrs Neal and Morris as much pleasure: 'They saved perhaps the best performance of the season for the 34th match... with this team spirit, unselfish teamwork and willingness to work for each other, they can go up a level still, either in this team or with the firsts.' In addition, the 3rd XI had as many games as they have ever had and represented King's as well as any of the other King's teams.

The inaugural Cheshire Schools' Football Association league was a great success with the U13s and U15s playing their local rivals in a league format for the first time and both acquitting themselves superbly. Ben Sawney (4ths) ended a brilliant season by clinching the 'Golden Boot' although both teams paid the price for one poor result which meant they both finished as close runners up.

George Okell, George Kaye and Sam Powell (4ths) represented the District at U15 level, and Jack Peake and George Nott (3rds) were part of the U14 District team that won the prestigious Alcock Cup. Andy Leech (U6) and Josh Murray (5ths) achieved national recognition, being selected to play for and tour with their respective ISFA teams.



The 1st XI squad are the most successful team King's has had in recent years, setting a precedent for other teams to aspire to and dominating county and district hockey for three years. The girls retained their county indoor and outdoor titles this year, have represented the county in the North semi-final on three occasions and won once and missed out in very close circumstances over the past two years. Losing only twice all season this has been a very high standard to set the others in King's.

Individuals in the 1st XI have gained county and national honours: Alice Plews (U6), Siobhan Barnard and Kate Saunders (L6) have played county hockey and regional hockey for the Pennine Pumas this year. Amy Bellis (U6) has represented North Wales and Sophie Clough (U6) has represented her country, Wales, in the Women's Indoor Squad and the U18 Outdoor Squad.

The U16 team have similarly had success this year, finishing as runners up in the Cheshire Indoor, Outdoor

and Chester and District Competitions. They've played consistently well throughout the season, only losing two and winning 14 of their 20 fixtures.

At U14 level the girls had a very good season with a handful of girls juggling playing hockey and representing the school at rowing, showing great commitment to both. The squad have enjoyed success in the counties tournaments. They came runners up in the outdoor and 3rd place in the indoor. Eleanor Barnard plays for Cheshire U15s and Sian Davies and Jessica Guest (3rds) for West Cheshire and Wirral U14s.

At U13 level the squad have enjoyed their season as the transition from mini hockey to full sided hockey begins. The squad boast the largest representation of girls across the age groups and it has been a tough task (albeit a nice challenge) to ensure all girls get the chance to play. The highlights of the season were the results against Altrincham, Stockport and Kirkham. The squad have had some disappointing results this year also, losing in the Indoor District final and losing out in a place in the National Minis tournament. These results have only made them stronger and more determined for the year ahead. Many girls were successful in the selection process for the academy: Ellie Crisp, Megan Pode, Katie Pownall, Anna Longson, Lucy Armatage, Kitty Abberton and Ellie Kearney-Mitchell (Shells).

At U12 level the squads improved throughout the season. In the King's Invitational Tournament the A squad came a respectable 2nd and worked well throughout the tournament. Several players were successful at JDC level for the county – Sophie Drew, Charlotte Knight, Rebecca Reeves and Emily Boothroyd (Removes) progressing through to the academy.





For the first time ever, King's reached the regional stages of the National Schools' Hockey Cup in all the age groups that we entered. It has been great to welcome Simon Egerton (current England International)



to the coaching staff and he has definitely made a difference to all the teams he has been involved with.

The 1st X1 began the season depleted in numbers and had a baptism of fire against a Calday Grange team who had just arrived back from a week long tour.

A loss though seemed to spur the boys on and after regaining several players back to the squad, the team remained unbeaten for the majority of the season, comfortably winning the County stage of the National Schools' Cup.

In the Regional finals, the team once again came up against Calday Grange: this time King's had chance after chance before converting through the ever present Captain, Jonathan Rodger (U6). It was the last hit of the game that determined the outcome of the Regional Finals, Calday equalising through a fortunate deflection.

Calday only needed a draw and King's needed to win to progress to the National final. Their unbeaten record was still intact, but unfortunately they did not go through. It does illustrate how far the team has come this year though. With only two players leaving in U6, their performances bode very well for next season.

The U16 team were all Fourth Year pupils and so to progress to the Regional Finals as such a young side was a real achievement. Led by Jonathan Verity (4ths), the team were deservedly unbeaten in the county stages bar a slip up against a strong Altrincham side.

Unfortunately, the Regional Finals were very tough and although the boys gave a very strong account of themselves, they did not progress to the National stages. Most of these boys will play in the 1st X1 next year which in itself shows the talent of these young hockey players.

The U14 team, led by Thomas Armatage (3rds), remained unbeaten until the Regional Final itself. Goalkeeper Oliver Church (3rds) was outstanding all season: King's only conceded one goal throughout the whole of the County rounds and looked to be favourites going into the Regional Finals. In the final itself, the boys came up against Wirral Grammar School, whom they had played and beaten comfortably only two weeks previously.

Wirral rose to the occasion and produced an oustanding performance to defeat King's 0-1. The boys were rightly disappointed but this again shows the strength and depth of talent at King's.

The school are very proud of the achievements of all the Boys' Hockey Teams this season and they look forward to continued success next year: they have shown teamwork, ambition and loyalty.

#### Netball



The U12 netball squad has had around 20 members this year allowing two squads to play. The girls played 35 fixtures, and entered both the U12A and U12B District tournaments. King's U12A played seven matches and ended up coming a respectful 4th place after a slow start to the tournament. The U12B tournament was a

round robin format. The team started well against a weaker than normal Upton, comfortably winning 3-0. The second game against Tarporley was a different matter. This team were strong and eventually went on to win the whole tournament. The team were beaten by Christleton, but this fired them up for the Queen's game, to whom they had previously lost. King's managed to sneak a goal to make it a draw securing 5th place in the tournament overall.

There were nearly 30 members of the Shells netball club this year and they are a very talented group of girls. They have played some fantastic matches this season winning 21 and losing 12. Again there were two tournaments for this age group an A and B.

The U13B netball tournament was the final tournament of the season and with a squad of 16 two full teams were entered. Overall the girls scored 34 goals, conceding only five and are now Chester and District Champions.

Third Year netball has had many members but suffered a little through players rowing also. They have played 17 matches over the course of the season, had good results against Queens Park HS and Abbey Gate College and have had the benefit of Mrs Laura Cosgrove as coach.

The U16 squad has remained quite consistent over the five years, with Miranda Harle doing a fantastic job as Captain this year. Millie Johnson, Megan Rudge and Georgia Andrews (5ths) are all great shooters, and having originally started as a centre in Year 7 and 8, Felicity Elsegood (5ths) has become an outstanding defence.

The 1st VII have had a mixture of players from Fifth Year through to Upper Sixth. Playing for their final year in school, after seven years of dedicated training and match play were Hannah Phillips, who did an excellent job as Captain, Hannah Rudge, Amy Bellis and Kathryn Williams (U6). This squad has been a pleasure to train with and take to matches, they have played some fabulous matches, notably against Birkenhead and Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Blackburn.

## Rugby



The 1st XV have had a super year with some quality wins and massive development as a team. Staff have been able to coach them to a level not achieved previously and this is testimony to their absolute determination to enjoy themselves and work hard at getting better. The experienced players were humble in their encouragement and the developing players were keen to improve as a result. They beat Hulme Grammar School twice and won a tight game against Christleton.

The County Sevens tournament was a super day and they lost narrowly in the plate final. Some of the retiring Upper Sixth students are keen to come and coach in September before they leave for University which is another mark of how tight this team became.

Mr Harle and Mr Parry both congratulate and thank all the boys who played any part whatsoever and look forward to a fresh crop of students coming through next year.

The U14 rugby players are developing into a strong, tight team who have surprised and delighted with their tremendous attitude, work-rate and ability throughout the season. The team came together last year thanks to the perseverance and commitment of parent Royan Anthony who saw the potential of this year-group.

The team started the year with a commanding performance in the Emerging Schools' event at Whitchurch Rugby Club. King's were in imperious form, showing that clearly in the category of Emerging School, their ability was way beyond this as they trounced some more established rugby schools, gaining victory in all three games without conceding a try.

The main cause for celebration, however, was the two victories in the County Cup over Tarporley High School and Bramhall, the first under floodlights at Chester Rugby Club. The Quarter Final defeat by St Ambrose was a little disappointing, but this was still a remarkable achievement in King's first foray into Cup rugby.

## Cross Country



King's runners performed admirably in the Chester & District event in November in pretty poor conditions, with all athletes acquitting themselves well in a very competitive event. King's Girls' Teams won the Minors and the Seniors events and came 2nd in the Juniors and Inters age group.

Due to poor weather (the mass of snow!) the County Cross Country was postponed and in the end only Anna Willis and Natasha Tudor from the Removes ran for the Chester team from King's. It was the top 16 runners that went on to represent Cheshire in the National X Country Championship. Anna only just missed out on place coming 18th overall, whilst Natasha came 38th. Both were fine performances in a field of over 90 runners.

In the boys' event particular mention should go to James Ellis (L6), who won the Senior competition at a canter, and Harry Ashworth (5ths), who was narrowly pipped to the post in a great Intermediate race.

King's were the only school to field a team in each age group and several runners have been selected to represent the city in the County event. The boys' Minors team placed 3rd, the Juniors were 4th, but both the Intermediate and Senior teams won the event.

19 King's pupils were chosen to run for Chester in the County events: Sam Pode, Sam Rogers, Matt Traynor and Tommy Speed for the Minors (Removes), Sam Arshad-Roberts, Mike Ellis, Oli Major, Cameron Thompson and Ben Paxton for the Juniors (Shells and 3rds), Harry Ashworth, Will Miller, David Cartmell, Harry Stables and Lloyd Stanley for the Intermediates (4ths and 5ths) and James Ellis, Fred Deas, Ed Jamieson, Will Moreland and Adam Jones for the Seniors (Sixth Form). James also gained honours in the Home Nations Fell-running competition, representing England, who won the event.

## Swimming

The Remove girls came 3rd in their first ever District swimming gala this year. Competing against nine other schools from across the District, they produced some excellent results including Katie Lawrence Smith who won the 25m Butterfly and Anna Willis who won the 50m Backstroke.

The Remove boys won their gala, Sam Wild set two new records, one in the 50 metre Freestyle and one in the Individual Medley. Simon Ellershaw set a new record in the 50 metre Backstroke and Alex Tan achieved the same in the 50 metre Breaststroke.

The Shells girls attended the Chester and District swimming gala. The team came 5th overall, with some good performances by Lucy Armatage who came 3rd in the 50 metres Freestyle and Kitty Abberton who was 2nd in the 50 metre Backstroke. The Year 8 boys won their gala, Alex Slater setting a new record in the 50 metre Backstroke.

The Third Year attended the Chester and District swimming gala with only six swimmers. Alice Carr, who took 1st place in the 25 metres Butterfly, was supported by Sara Ashworth who took 2nd place in the 50 metres Freestyle and 5th place in the Individual Medley as well as competing in a relay, and several others: the squad came 3rd overall. The Fourth Year boys competed in the Senior Gala giving up to three years away to their opponents. They finished 2nd, Will Slater setting a new record in the 50 metres Freestyle.

## Basketball

The pressure of other commitments and the relative geographic isolation of King's with respect to the other Northern Independent Schools means that King's basketball is restricted to the Chester and District competitions.

Despite administrative difficulties in the district organisation, King's have played well this season. The talented Fourth Year team won two and lost two matches. All games were competitive with some high scores being posted - Ben Sawney and Andy Thomas being the top performers.

The Third Year team, a talented group across many sports, also acquitted themselves through the season, beating Blacon and squeezing out a victory over Catholic High School. This led to the play-offs, but King's were slightly put off by the rushed nature of the games and were unable to progress further. The Shells team were very well led by the talented Jack Meadows, but they were unable to post a victory, such was the strength of the opposition.

The news was better for the Seniors in their competition: they won two and narrowly lost two, with veteran Marvin Hayes (5ths) ably assisting the remarkable Mike Collins (L6), King's 'overseas' player who blazed past defenders in several lung-bursting performances.

The problem of training time has dogged recent attempts to develop further and it is hoped that the aim to use Saturdays for basketball next season will help develop this enjoyable sport further.



In December, the Shells took part in our first Chester and District Competition. A dedicated group of girls had been practising since September on their pairs work and vault in order to enter a team in the event. The competition took place at the Catholic High School with nine schools participating.

King's finished in 5th place overall in a very close competition, with Sian Jackson performing particularly well to come 2nd overall in the vault. It was a very enjoyable experience, giving great impetus to compete again next year.

Since Christmas, Gym club has gone from strength to strength with increased numbers of girls wishing to develop their skills, particularly in vaulting and trampette work.









## Rounders



There are four squads for rounders this season, U12, U13, U14 and U15. The squads for the younger age groups, especially U13, are hugely popular meaning teams change for every game to ensure those who want to play do. The U13 girls are going into this season as previous winners of the U12 girls' District Rounders tournament and are no doubt looking to take the U13 girls' title later on in the season.

So far we have played Christleton and Birkenhead School. Here the U13 girls' were triumphant with a fantastic performance from Katie Pownell who scored from every bat. The U12 girls' narrowly lost 10-11½ in their first game of the season. There is much to look forward to still with District tournaments and more matches against local opposition.





The most pleasing aspect of the tennis season so far, has been the enthusiasm to play from so many King's School girls. With large number of girls attending clubs, the emphasis has been on providing all girls, particularly in the Removes and Shells, with an opportunity to play in fixtures if they wish. Early morning practices provided by Liam Shelbourne, the school coach, have also proved particularly popular and a welcome addition to the tennis programme.

We have so far had block friendly fixtures against Cheadle Hulme, Queen's, Loreto and Moreton Hall. All results have been mixed; all fixtures have been enjoyable and provided match experience for girls against other schools.

Our U18 team had a tough draw in the Aberdare Cup - losing to the tennis academy team at Ellesmere College, but finishing as runners up in the Chester and District Tournament.

The girls are performing very strongly in the Aegon Tennis Competition - both the U13 B team and U15 team are yet to lose a match. The U13 A team have beaten Queen's but lost on a deciding set tie break to the Grange School. There are a number of matches still to play in these leagues. We're now looking forward to the Chester and District Competitions for the U15 and U13 teams.

## Boys' Tennis 🧲



The 2010 tennis season has got off to a good start. The Junior and Senior teams have played several fixtures and have been very successful.

The Senior boys have progressed to the second round of The National Schools' Championships and two pairs of our U15s reached the plate semi-final at The Northern Schools' Championships held in Bolton.

The boys look forward to a enjoyable season and to competing, for the first time at U13 and U15 level, in the Independent Schools' Tennis Championships which are held at Eton College in July.

## King's eye

## Girls' Athletics



The athletics season has started very well: for the first time King's have hosted two track meetings for district schools as well as competing in the annual English Schools' Athletics Competition and Minors' District Championships held in Wrexham.

In the first track meeting against Upton and Tarporley the girls competed in all age groups. King's won the Shells competition, came 2nd in both the Removes and Fourth Year competition and 3rd in the Third Year competition.

In the second track meet against Abbeygate and Christleton the girls competed in all age groups and were the overall winning school. King's won the Removes and Fourth Year competition and were 2nd in the Third Year and Shells competition. We had some worthy winners in their events, Natasha Tudor in the Removes 1500m, Sara Ashworth in the Third Year 1500m, Emily Boothroyd in the Removes 100m and Meredith Benson in the Fourth Year 100m.

In the English Schools' Competition the U13 Junior Team did very well qualifying for the next round by coming 2nd. Notable performances were Lucy Davies (4ths) in the Triple Jump who won the event with a jump of 9.81m, Charlotte Gurran (4ths) who came 3rd in the High Jump, Kitty Abberton (Shells) who came 2nd in the Javelin and Natasha Tudor (Removes) - 1500m, Lucy Armatage - 800m and Ellie Kearney-Mitchell - Discus (Shells) who all came 3rd in their events.

In the District Minors' at Queensway Natasha Tudor was again very successful in winning the 800m event and set a new district record. Other successes were Emily Boothroyd, 3rd place in the 100m and Eloise Bland (Removes), 3rd place in the 200m.

For the remainder of the term the girls in Shells and above will be training hard for the upcoming district athletics which is organised by King's.

### Cricket



Cricket continues to thrive at King's, the first half of the season having produced some fine play and great individual performances. Cricket coach, Nigel Walker, and the staff who give up so much helping in this time-hungry sport, are using their expertise to help the players develop in the increasingly competitive fixture list.

There have been several notable performances so far this summer. Joe Benson (L6) scored his maiden century for the school, a fine undefeated 103 not out, against the Forty Club in May. The school, winners of the Forty Club trophy in 2008, have competed well recently and the Forty Club were clearly wary of King's ability, unusually electing to put King's into bat. King's posted a fine score of 247 off 50 overs, Joe ably supported by captain Andy Leech (L6) – 79 not out. The Forty Club struggled against King's attack and King's won the match by 158 runs.

The 1st XI achieved an excellent result playing against Cheadle Hulme. Olly Thompson and Arthur Thomas (L6) put on over 200 for the first wicket, Arthur scoring 94 and Olly a mammoth 153 not out. This is the highest score by any batsman with the 1st XI.

A problem with Senior sports teams is that strength at 1 st XI level can lead to a fallow year when the U6 leave for pastures new. The strength of the 2nd XI, who have performed well this summer should assuage this, particularly when combined with the fine performance of the U17 team in defeating a strong Wilmslow HS team in the new National Competition.

The U15s are a strengthening team. After struggling for consistency through their time his input has galvanised the team, well led by the talented Matt Williams (4ths). Their victories over King's, Macclesfield, Bolton School and at Shrewsbury demonstrate this progress and augurs well for the future. The U14s are arguably the most talented Junior side. At time of print this side had only lost one match, against Bolton School, and this included a victory over representative side NE Wales. This team contains three county players, Guy Dunbavand, Henry Makings and Craig Evans (3rds) as well as two North East Wales players and several more very talented players.

The U13s are a keen team and though they have struggled a little with the demands of some difficult fixtures, a tremendous, last gasp victory over Birkenhead School in the County Cup showed that there are some good cricketers in the team.

The U12s struggled initially owing to an injury to their most influential player. However, there is lots of talent in this team and the developing unit, ably led by Wales cricketer and school captain Al Andrady (Removes), has posted some impressive victories. The players and staff look forward to the rest of the season: all teams are still in the County Cup and there are some big fixtures to come, including the MCC, the Senior and Colts festivals and a block fixture, during the last weekend of term, against Manchester Grammar School.



King's entered several Athletics events throughout the summer term as well as this year, for the first time, hosting some friendly track meets against other local schools. The first athletics event of the year was the very successful match against Upton which King's won convincingly. There were excellent performances by several athletes including a victory for the Removes team, racing for the first time and captained by Luke Sawney.

The first major meet of the year is the English Schools' Athletics Championships at Warrington. The Junior Boys' team performed extremely well with notable performances by Sam Gareh who won the 200m, Ben Johnson in the High Jump and Harry Stables (Shells) who convincingly won the Triple Jump. There were many others who scored really well for the team and they have qualified for the Regional Finals in June. The next event on the calendar was the District Minors' Event for Removes at Wrexham Athletics Stadium. The boys finished a creditable 5th place with exceptional performances by George Back who won the Hurdles, Tommy Speed who came 2nd in the Javelin and Adam Sawney (Removes) who came 3rd in the Discus. The season is as yet only half over, and the boys' teams have high hopes in the upcoming District Championships and the Regional Finals of the English Schools' Championships.

## Hockey Tour



This year, the Senior boys' hockey team went to The Hague over Easter to train and play at HGC, one of the biggest hockey clubs in Holland. During the six day trip, the boys were coached each morning by current England International, Simon Egerton and played three competitive games.

The first of the three games was against hosts HGC. The game was fiercely competitive and the boys had to adjust quickly to the faster and more physical European style of hockey. HGC defeated King's 1-2 although a contentious disallowed goal for King's would have made the result more appropriate.

During the third day, the boys were able to watch HGC 1st X1 against local rivals HDM. This provided the opportunity to meet Great Britain captain, Barry Middleton, Ashley Jackson (World Young Player of the Year) and Guus Vogels, Dutch International goalkeeper. After this game, the team jogged over to HDM and played against their U18s resulting in a thrilling O-O draw.

On day four, the boys played Pijnaker and although tired after three days training and playing, defeated them 8-4. There were some excellent goals scored, the highlight being a superb solo effort by Edward Peel (5ths).

The results showed a steady improvement by this talented bunch of players who were congratulated wherever they went on their exemplary conduct and politeness.

## King's eye

## Football & Netball Tour



In March, 48 King's students flew to the warmer climes of Malaga in southern Spain. The U13 and U14 boys' Football and U13 girls' Netball teams had departed the icy weather of Britain for a week's intense training and competitive matches against local Spanish opposition.

This also included the chance to play football against Malaga FC's Youth Academy. The girls faced a trip to Gibralta to play both foreign and English schools in netball.

Training began on arrival, with the students put through their paces thoroughly by the Inspiresport coaching team and coaches from Malaga's Youth Academy. Matches started the following day, with the netball teams travelling to Gibraltar to take part in a tournament against a local U15 Gibraltar Storm side, a squad from Dauntsey's School in Wiltshire and a team from Durham who had also travelled from the UK.

The football teams took on the local team San Pedro, with the U13s emerging victorious following what was described as their best performance of the season.





A much anticipated trip to Malaga's Youth Academy saw the King's football teams up against players who might one day grace our television screens.

Being also slightly older than the King's boys didn't help the tourists' chances on this occasion, but heavy defeats didn't take anything away from their enjoyment of the opportunity, and they left better footballers because of it.

The final netball game of the season pitched the King's U13 A team against Durham U15s. Despite the age difference King's took the game in the last quarter following a closely contested match which was described as a "sensational end-to-end game".

As part of the tour the students were given the chance to watch Malaga FC at their home stadium, who were to engage Tenerife in 'La Liga', the Spanish Premier League.

At the end of it all, many comments were passed by hotel staff and guests about how well behaved the King's students were during their time abroad, and parents have expressed thanks to Mr Lunn and the team for what turned out to be an exceptionally well organised and successful trip.

The students were quoted to have "enjoyed every moment of it", and wished that they could have stayed longer. Tours teach the players much and the planned schedule of future tours is now drawn up and published.



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