



THE KING'S SCHOOL
CHESTER

King's eye

A review of 2011/12



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

An introduction from the Headmaster

To look back on a great year and try to identify highlights is not easy. Are we most proud of being indisputably the top-performing school at A level in 2011 and of the record level of top university offers per student for 2012?

Of another great school musical in *Jekyll and Hyde* or of the continued success of football, boys' and girls' hockey and rowing, or even of the emergence of new sports such as fencing? Of the flourishing of creative writing this year? No, what makes us most proud is the buzz of learning which we increasingly see in and around the school, epitomised by Enrichment, this year's big 'new thing'.

As you will read, Enrichment is not an 'add-on': our vision is of a school which fosters a zest for learning and independent thought. The fact that this also leads to top results and to our students being sought after by universities follows from that – it is not an end in itself.

As the Chairman says in his introduction, the future is bright too. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with David, and I am hugely grateful for his dedication to King's. Building on his Chairmanship, we will go from strength to strength!

Chris Lawson



Governors

The annual publication of the King's Eye is a recurring delight for everyone associated with the school. Whilst the magazine is jam-packed with highlights from the previous year, what appears truly represents the 'crème de la crème'. Were absolutely everything noteworthy to be chronicled, then the Eye would take on the proportions of a telephone directory, such are the range and depth of our young people's accomplishments.

This summer, I am stepping down from the Board at the end of my three-year tenure as Chairman and nine years after I joined the Governors as the representative of Manchester University. There has been great change and much to admire. What would I pick out? On academics, I would commend the newly introduced curriculum and the improvement in public examination results: the former for offering opportunities to develop potential, the latter for

demonstrating the fulfilment of potential. On the co-curricular front, I applaud the revival at King's of the notion of community service, cast as it is in a modern idiom. On the development of facilities, the opening of the Vanbrugh Theatre demonstrated long-term confidence in the future of the school, defying the economic Cassandras.

I shall look back on my association with King's with enormous pleasure. The work of Governors is, of course, ongoing. I wish my successor every happiness and success in the role. To my Governor colleagues, I urge continued clear-sightedness in the assessment of risk, the development of strategy and, in implementing plans, the courage of their convictions.

David Hemsall
Chair of Governors



Dr David Hemsall – Chair of Governors

Dr Hemsall was educated at Manchester Grammar School and Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge where he read History before completing his PhD at the University of Kent. He taught in the state sector and at Rugby before becoming Head of

Scarborough College and then Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School in Blackburn. He was, for ten years, a Trustee of St Catherine's Hospice, was Vice Chairman of the Scarborough and North East Yorkshire Healthcare Trust and Treasurer of HMC from 2001-2007. David joined the Board in 2003 and has been Chairman for three years; he is due to step down in summer 2012.



Jo Clague

Jo is Faculty Manager for the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences at the University of Liverpool. She was an Accountant with Deloitte before returning to her own university as a Planning and Business Manager. She has represented Liverpool University on the Board since 2010.



Martin Cooke

After qualifying as a Chartered Accountant, Mr Cooke moved into the investment world joining stockbrokers Rensburg & Co in Liverpool. After a career in investment research he changed roles to become Marketing Director in 1998. In 2001 he was appointed Head of

Investment. He is a past president of the Liverpool Society of Chartered Accountants, a founder member of the Chester Summer Music Festival and member of the Council of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. Martin is stepping down from the Board this summer after twelve years' service including Chairmanship of the Finance & General Purposes Committee. He has had three sons and a daughter at King's and his interests include music, hill walking and sailing.



Stephen Cross

Stephen has been Clerk to the Governors since 2002. He retired from the Police Service after 31 years, having specialised in the criminal investigation of serious crime, fraud and drug related crime, as well as being a national hostage negotiator. Following his retirement from the Police,

Stephen graduated in law and is now the in-house lawyer for the Countess of Chester Hospital, a Governor of the Deeside group



Bonner Davies

Bonner was a pupil at King's and is a keen supporter of the School's Rowing Club. He is a graduate of Loughborough University and a Chartered Civil Engineer and property expert running his own firm, John Davies Associates. His career has spanned both the public and private sectors

including nearly 20 years as a Senior Manager and Director with the UK subsidiaries of a major French water company. He chairs the Digital Strategy Committee as well as now chairing the Nominations Committee. He has been a Governor since 2004.



The Right Reverend Peter Forster

Dr Forster read Chemistry at Merton College, Oxford and then studied Theology at Edinburgh University. He was a Curate in Liverpool before being Senior Tutor at St John's College, Durham University. Before becoming Bishop of Chester in 1996 he was Vicar of Beverley Minster. He has wide

educational interests and chairs the Governing Body of University College, Chester.



Kevin Hassett

Kevin represents Chester Municipal Charities on the Board. He has been involved for a number of years in the city's charitable foundations and is active in supporting a number of local primary schools as well as other organisations. A Governor since 2007, he takes a particular

interest in public benefit and the School's community links.



Keith James

Keith joined King's as a pupil in 1955 when the School was still based in Abbey Square. He qualified as a Chartered Accountant and remained in private practice until his retirement in 2002. His lifelong interest in King's led to

Treasurership and Presidency of the Chester Association of Old King's Scholars, on whose committee he still sits. He was appointed a Governor of King's in 1988 and was Chairman from 2005-2009; he currently sits on both the Finance & General Purposes Committee and the Bursary Trust. Keith's other interests are country walking, travel, sport, steam railways and the organ.



Michael Jessop

Michael was a pupil at King's and read Law at Durham. He then practised as a solicitor in Chester for a number of years, before starting his own business in Tarvin, where he lives. Michael has been a Governor of King's since 1993 and sits on the Finance & General Purposes

Committee. He retains strong interests in rowing and music, both long-standing areas of expertise.



Eleanor Johnson

Eleanor has been a Governor since 1999 representing the City of Chester, on whose Council she has sat since 1994. In 2011-12 she served as Lord Mayor of Chester and has previously served as Sheriff. As a Councillor, she has sat on a variety of Council committees, including

Housing, and she was chairman of Every Child Matters. She sits on the Finance & General Purposes Committee and chairs the Audit & Compliance Committee.



Katrina Kerr

Katrina was educated at Watford Girls' Grammar School, the University of Bristol, where she studied Modern Languages, and INSEAD where she did her MBA. Her entire career has been spent in the communications industry working for multinational communications agencies

such as Ogilvy and JWT on a wide range of clients including American Express, Ford, Renault, Reckitt Benckiser, Kimberly Clark and The Guardian Media Group. She chairs the Marketing and Development Committee and has two sons at King's. She is also a Governor of Manchester Metropolitan University. Katrina has been a Governor at King's since 2006.



Neil Kirk

Neil left the world of banking after 16 years in 1993 to take an entrepreneurial step to private business. Presently Managing Director of Howard Basford Ltd, he served for over four years on the Board of CEWTEC which supported the growth and development of local businesses.

Other present directorships include Inglewood Conference Centre Limited and Auto Think Ltd. Neil is married to Linda and has two sons and a daughter at King's. He joined the Board in 2005 and chairs the Finance & General Purposes Committee.



The Very Reverend Gordon McPhate

The Very Reverend Gordon McPhate is Dean of Chester. He is also Visiting Professor of Theology at University College, Chester, specialising in Medical Ethics. He held academic appointments in Physiology and Pathology at the

Universities of Cambridge, London and St Andrews and was also Consultant Clinical Pathologist to Fife Hospitals until 2002. After training for the ministry at Westcott House, Cambridge, he served as a priest in the Dioceses of Southwark and St Andrews between 1979 and 2002.



Dr David Pawson

Dr Pawson read Chemistry at Imperial College, and went on to complete his PhD there followed by postdoctoral studies on a Fulbright Scholarship at Northwestern University, Chicago. He joined Unilever's Port Sunlight Research Laboratory in 1976 and, following a

career that included spells in Germany and Brazil, became a Research Director. His interests include singing, golf and the history of technology. David is Secretary of the Chester Bach Singers and Chairman of the Festival Chorus. He joined the Board in 2005 and chairs its Strategy Committee; he sits on the Finance & General Purposes, Marketing, HR, Nominations and Remuneration Committees.



Jane Phillipson

Jane Phillipson graduated from the University of Sheffield and is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development. A career Human Resources professional, Jane has worked in both the private and public sectors, including two years at the University of Delaware in the USA. Jane has lived in Chester since 1988 and was Director of Personnel at the Countess of Chester Hospital until 1994. She is now an Associate Director of Hay Group, where she works with a range of clients, locally, nationally and internationally. Married to Nick, an Old King's Scholar, Jane has two children, both of whom were educated at King's. She joined the Board in 2005 and chairs the HR Committee.



Dr Chris Ray

Dr Ray is the High Master of Manchester Grammar School; he was formerly Headmaster of John Lyon School and before that Academic Deputy at KCS Wimbledon. Teaching followed a career in research and commerce; his degrees are in both Physics and Philosophy. Dr Ray

joined the King's Board in Spring 2012, the year in which he also becomes Chairman of HMC and as such, the official spokesman for leading independent schools. He has also chaired HMC's Academic Policy Committee.



Andrew Storrar

Andrew has been a Governor since 2002, representing the City of Chester, on whose Council he sat until 2011. In 2008-09 he served as High Sheriff of Chester and he has chaired the Chester Planning Committee. He was a well-known land manager in Cheshire, is an active

member of the Rotary Club and a governor and PCC member in his home village of Sealand.



The Reverend Ian Thomas

Ian Thomas was educated at Jesus College and St Stephen's House, Oxford. He has served as Honorary Chaplain to HM The Queen, served in RAF chaplaincy for 24 years and is now Rector of Eccleston & Pulford. Ian is interested in golf, he plays the violin and is a qualified

Rugby referee. Ian joined The King's School Board of Governors in 2006 and sits on the Audit and Joint Staff Consultancy Committees. He is one of the Cathedral's representative Governors.



Jerry Tweddle

Jerry has been a Governor since 1996, and sits on the Marketing Committee. He is a Director of INEOS Compounds, a major regional and national manufacturing company. His daughter is Olympian, Beth Tweddle.

Welcome



Miss Helen Bannaghan
Deputy Head of Maths



Miss Hannah Brennan
English department



Dr Helen Faulkner
Biology department



Mr Neil Grisedale
Physics department



Mr James Rees
Head of RS & Philosophy



Miss Rebecca Lindsay
Modern Languages

We welcomed five new members of the teaching staff this September: **Miss Helen Bannaghan** joined us as **Deputy Head of Mathematics**, **Miss Hannah Brennan** joined the **English department**, **Dr Helen Faulkner** the **Biology department**, **Mr Neil Grisedale** the **Physics department** and **Mr James Rees** became **Head of RS and Philosophy**. All have quickly made their mark in all kinds of ways and have already made a significant contribution to life at King's. **Miss Rebecca Lindsay** has been in the **Modern Languages department** all year covering Sr Sabio's absence.

Farewell

The year ends with some farewells to colleagues who are leaving us; to them all, for their great contributions we say a heartfelt thank you.



Mr Gary Andrews

has taught Physics and tutored in Removes since 2006. He has been an enormously popular teacher and has restored the fortunes of chess at King's, leading the Chess Club to outstanding success both locally and nationally. He has been appointed Head of Physics at Moreton Hall, a great appointment, and we wish him well.



Miss Hannah Brennan

has been with us on a year's contract as a newly-qualified teacher, and has won many admirers for her calm but inventive approach, her skill with new technologies and her work with the enrichment radio blog and animation sessions, as well as with classes of all ages. She remains in the profession locally, moving to a post at Christleton.



Mr Kevin Lloyd

has been Head of Design and Technology since 2002 and leaves us to take on the post of Head of the Design Faculty at Shrewsbury School. Under his stewardship Design and Technology has increased in popularity and success, we have made our mark as regular winners of Arkwright Scholarships and design competitions, and the department has flourished. He will be much missed for his leadership of the department and his fine tutoring.



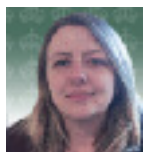
Mr Ian Reid

has been both part-time teacher and technician in the Design Technology department, and retires from the former, though he will still be with us in the latter role for some time to come, we hope! His quietly authoritative approach to both teaching and tutoring (most recently in the Removes) have been much appreciated.



Sr Manuel Sabio

has decided to leave after a period of absence for personal reasons. His popularity as teacher and guitarist (the two sometimes combined!) has always been legendary, and we wish him the very best of good fortune in his new ventures.



Mrs Elizabeth Shepherd

has taught Classics for the past two years and acted as Head of Department during 2011-12. Though employed in a temporary capacity she has re-started the popular Classics Club, and brought enthusiasm and expertise to all her teaching from Removes to Upper Sixth. She has been a well-liked and fine member of our teaching staff.



Mr Chris Wharton

has been a part-time teacher of Music Technology as well as percussion teacher, and it is only in the former capacity that he leaves us. We are delighted that he will continue his teaching of Music Technology as an 'instrumental' lesson, as well as being much in demand as an instrumental coach!

Academic report

With record GCSE examination results in 2009, there were strong hopes that last year's A level results would also reach new levels and we were not disappointed. Particularly pleasing was the significant increase in the number of A* grades at A level, rising from 20% of all entries in 2010, to 28% last year. With more universities starting to include A* grades in student offers, it is pleasing to see King's students showing the ambition to achieve these highest grades and there can be no doubt that the requirement of 90% in each A2 module is a fully demanding target only achieved through consistently dedicated effort.

Amongst our most successful students, a total of four A* grades were achieved by Edward Andrade, Lewis Ankers, Siobhan Barnard, Matthew Chadwick, Adam Davies, Joe Dillamore, James Edholm, Christopher Jarvis and Oliver Tattersall. Three A* grades were achieved by Joe Bentley, James Goulbourne, Robin Johnson, David Leyland, Tom Menzies and Edward Pilkington, whilst a further eleven students managed two A* grades.

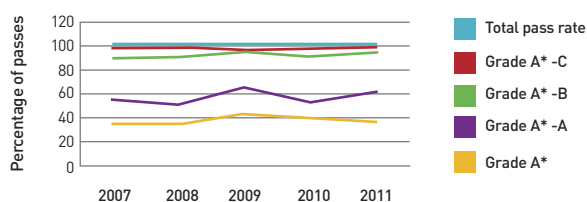
Just as impressive was the combined total of A* and A grades, which provided another record for King's at 67.5% of all examination entries, and over half of all students scored A* or A grades in all three or four of their A level subjects. With a similarly outstanding set of AS results, hopes are high that our students will have further success this year.

Competition for university places seems to get increasingly tough and next year we will be widening our programme of Oxbridge preparation to help develop more students as they go through the application process to a full range of courses at a variety of top universities. The Extended Project continues to benefit students, particularly as it can help to clinch a university place, and 28 students completed projects last year, with 64% of those securing A* or A grades.

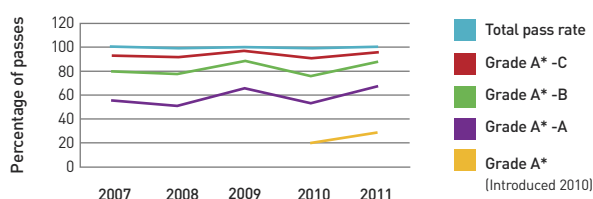
Emily Moss was the top performer at GCSE with a total of eleven A* grades. Following close behind her with ten A*s were Meredith Benson, Matthew Hill, George Kaye, Hannah Lawrence-Smith, Joshua Smith and Sean Telford KS. Rachael Alcock KS, Sam Narici, Bethany Shears, Kartik Upadhyay and William Marshall all achieved nine A* grades. With higher results than last year, 94.9% of the GCSE grades were awarded A*, A or B grades and a third of Fifth Year students gained A or A* grades in all their GCSE subjects.

The introduction of an ambitious programme of Enrichment this year, together with the move to a new curriculum structure of 55-minute lessons has made this an exciting and successful year in academic terms and we congratulate all our students on what they have achieved.

GCSE/iGCSE results



A level results



Pastoral report



As we said last year, education should be conceived of **as life** and not merely a preparation **for life**, so what has been achieved in the last twelve months to further this aim within the pastoral structure of the school?

The need for a more audible student voice has been high on the agenda and the School Council has taken another significant step forward under the direction of the new senior prefects. Students have demonstrated that they have plenty to say and that they are capable of doing so in a far more dignified and constructive manner than Prime Minister's Questions! Following this success, a more formal School Council arrangement is planned for next year.

One proposal by the School Council was a new credit system and this has taken off as the year has progressed with numerous students accumulating sufficient credits to be awarded both certificates and the all important break-time hot food tokens!

Individual year group enterprises include the annual 'Shells' magazine' which aims to encourage a celebration of all Shells' activities both in and out of school. The magazine is being run by and produced by the Shells' Year group committee and magazine production team.

The new provisions offered by prefects have not just been limited to meetings, however, as the prefects have also played a valuable and supportive role with many Tutor groups. They

have also helped with the ever growing interform challenges in Removes, Shells and Thirds. From Talent contests to essays and from Latin readings to Dodgeball, the students have shown that they can run a competitive series of events. Even grades feature in the scoring for the eventual winners.

Sixth Form mentors also provide invaluable support to many younger students, especially the Removes. This is a truly reciprocal arrangement as the Sixth Form mentors clearly develop greater empathy and insight whilst supporting younger students.

Now that the Vanbrugh Theatre is complete, we can have regular assemblies once more. They are a feature of school life that was much missed and there have been some impressive student-led assemblies this year. Thoughtful, entertaining and demonstrating great understanding and team work, many of these productions have also featured some excellent musical performances, a feature that we hope will grow still further.

Some key pastoral focuses during the year should now be rather familiar. Anti-bullying week in November was centered around the slogan 'Words can hurt'. The students responded with empathy and imagination. Cruel students do not have a high profile at King's, but it is beholden on all to ensure that even thoughtless actions do not upset others. Internet Awareness day further emphasised the necessity to be sure that the impact of all communications, whether verbal or text, are considered and positive: think before you send.

What to look forward to next year? More ambition and benevolence in all that we do, but also a new and challenging expansion of the pastoral programme delivered through Tutor periods and also a more academically ambitious PSHE programme.

Travel

King's students are definitely going places... from the battlefields of Arnhem to an exciting expedition, taking in the cultural sights and natural wonders of Peru and Bolivia.



UK trips

Ullswater (1)



At the end of June, seven teachers and 104 students from the Third Year travelled to Outward Bound, Ullswater for six days of activity, based at Watermillock on the west side of the lake and How Town on the eastern shore.

Before they left the students had already followed a preparatory programme including practical navigation and map reading skills, awareness of the countryside and leadership skills.

Once in the Lake District the students completed a two day expedition and shorter, high-adrenaline activities such as rock climbing. All activities allowed the students to investigate their preconceptions about themselves. There were also cerebral activities, but even these led to non-sedentary outcomes!

The students were also challenged to live up to Outward Bound's five Rs: Respect, Reliability, Resourcefulness, Resilience and Responsibility (all of which can be shoehorned into the School's three values). They also needed to be truly reflective, both in their personal interactions with others, and also through the completion of a journal which occupied 15 silent minutes every evening.

Kurt Hahn, co-founder of Outward Bound, said "We are all better than we know; if only we can be brought to realise this, we may never again be prepared to settle for anything less." The young people who return from Ullswater have greater self-awareness and personal ambition and this should help them flourish during their GCSE years.

Manor Adventure (2)



The Removes made their annual trip to Manor Adventure in September just before the start of term. The pupils assembled in Tutor groups and were given t-shirts in colours corresponding to their house, each with the pupil's name on it. This was intended to help the pupils to get to know each other quickly. Wearing these t-shirts, the pupils embarked on the coaches for two days of activities. In the lovely September sunshine, activities began shortly after arrival. Each activity group consisted of a Tutor group and all took part in abseiling, climbing, crate-stacking, an underground maze (always a favourite with pupils but not with Tutors), archery, rifle shooting and a confidence course high in the trees. The activities continued after a good night's sleep and Tutor groups worked together really well. The group returned to school late in the evening and enjoyed a well earned rest over the weekend before lessons began on Monday.

MUN Conference, Edinburgh (3)



Schools from the UK and abroad represented 50 countries at this highly regarded three day conference in March 2012 where students mirror the procedures of the United Nations. Twelve King's students, representing Chad, made up the winning delegation. This is the first time that King's has won a Model United Nations Conference and it is a tremendous achievement and a well-deserved reward for the students involved who acquitted themselves with style. They were: Alex Austin (class of 2011), Chris Austin, Harry Butt and Kartik Upadhyay (all Lower Sixth), Harry Davies, Matthew Gilbertson, Arthur Jebb KS, Kallum Marsden, Fred Norman, Sean O'Doherty and George Vickers (all Upper Sixth) and Barnaby Rule KS (Shells).

The delegates researched Chad's position in the lead up to the conference and wrote resolutions about issues as diverse as selling human organs, taxation on financial transactions and internet anonymity. There were many individual awards too for our delegates, given for representing our country accurately, knowledge and effective speech-making, including two 'Best Delegate in Committee' Awards, five 'Highly Commended', three 'Commended' and a 'Best Junior Delegate in Committee' Award.

J14 Rowing Camp, Pangbourne (4)



The trip departed with 36 pupils from the J14 squad and five coaches. The group enjoyed great river conditions on the River Thames at Pangbourne and both the girls' and boys' squads made excellent progress. They made the most of the opportunity to practise on the water for the regatta season and built themselves into the summer teams that competed at the National Schools' Regatta in June.

Staying in a youth hostel on the banks of the River Thames gave the squad a chance to bond with one another and pupils returned from a wonderful training camp as a team and many tales to tell over the coming months.



World trips

Peru and Bolivia Expedition (1)



Last summer two teams from the Fifth Year and Sixth Form travelled to Peru and Bolivia for four weeks on a personal development expedition. The students took part in a number of community projects including building paths and vegetable beds in a boys' orphanage as well as taking on the locals in the customary football games.

For many students the main challenge of the expedition was the trekking phase, with one of the teams reaching the Laguna Glacier in the Bolivian Andes at 5000m and the other trekking in the Cotahuasi Canyon. All the students also experienced a huge amount of culture, from the festivals in La Paz to the Island of the Gods on Lake Titicaca to climbing up to Machu Picchu for sunrise. It truly was an amazing expedition with the students learning a lot about other countries, other cultures and most importantly themselves.

Ghent Rowing Tour (2)



The Senior Training Camp involved 49 boys and 30 girls from the top three squads in the club: the Colts B, Colts A and Senior Squad. The camp began with the journey to Belgium followed by the Ghent International Regatta the day after arriving. The club returned with eight gold, five silver and seven bronze medals (an improvement on the total of eight at last year's event) and many more excellent performances. Every athlete competed in at least one event each day and many of the squad competed in up to four events. The last race of the Regatta saw both the girls' and boys' 1st Vllls crowned Junior Flemish National Champions. This is now the third year running for the boys' VIII, with the girls winning the event for the first time. Four days of training followed the Regatta in which every athlete pushed themselves and each crew made great strides. All the crews returned ready for the summer regatta calendar.

Marbella Sports Tour (3)



During the October half term, two girls' netball teams and two boys' football teams went to Marbella for five days.

The girls from Shells and Third Year were coached by a netball coach from the North West of England. As soon as the girls arrived there was no time to spare and the first coaching afternoon started in the boiling hot sun. The squads played matches in Gibraltar, going over twice to The Rock to play local teams. All were tough matches but the second day's games were brilliant for both squads as they had settled into the training and started to implement tactics and techniques. The U13s won both their games, Imogen Szerdy (Shells) shot outstandingly well and Jessica Middleton (Shells) in defence blocked effectively. The U14 squad easily won their first game but had a battle in the second game losing 5-6 in a thrilling tussle. Abigail Wiseman (3rds) shot brilliantly and Sophie Drew (3rds) played an excellent game.

The disruption to the footballers caused by the weather was even more pronounced than with netball, though the maturity of the boys and the efforts of the tour rep meant that there was still plenty of football for the Shell and Third Year squads. The conditions were great on the first full day and the boys trained well on the hotel's full-sized pitch.

The next day started with what was virtually a tropical storm and the first games were called off owing to the dangerous conditions. Luckily a hastily arranged 5-a-side tournament at a local school allowed some football to be played. The tour company also managed to rearrange all the subsequent training sessions to Malaga's training ground, which allowed a huge amount to be covered in tremendous surroundings. The first full games were played against John Richardson Community College, a touring side from London, and both teams played beautifully, defeating teams from the year above. Even better was to follow on the final day of the trip when the U14s totally outplayed the regional side (in effect a professional academy), although they had to be content with a final score of 1-1. The U13s were unfortunately slightly mismatched against C.D.F. Romeral and were well beaten, although the effort and work-rate allowed the players to leave with their heads held high.

Overall this was a great trip during which the girls and boys learnt a huge amount about themselves and their chosen sports. The behaviour and cooperation of the pupils was exemplary and King's returned to the UK having left a very positive impression on the coaches, hotel staff and the teams with whom they had contact.

World trips (continued)

Battlefield Trip, Arnhem (4)



In October, 40 pupils visited Amsterdam and the battlefields of the audacious 'Operation Market Garden', made famous by the book and film *A Bridge Too Far*. The group travelled first to Amsterdam where they visited the house of Anne Frank and then on to New Eastern Cemetery to lay a wreath at the grave of Pilot Officer James Candale Walker (OKS) who was killed in anti-shipping operations off the Dutch coast in January, 1942.

The next day saw a visit to the grave of Major Geoffrey Worth Cowley (OKS), a former Head Boy, Captain of Cricket, school heavyweight boxing champion and then a qualified lawyer, who was killed serving with the Royal Artillery. The group also visited Nijmegen and Arnhem where British airborne troops fought their brave but ultimately doomed action. These visits included a walk across the famous 'John Frost Bridge' led by his nephew, and our esteemed guide, Col. Storie-Pugh, OBE.



Voyager Interaction 2012, Paris (5)

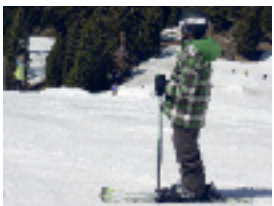


During the Easter holidays 30 pupils from the Fourth Year, Fifth Year and Lower Sixth took part in a joint residential interaction week in Paris. They shared a range of cultural and recreational activities with pupils from the Collège Hulst in Paris. They visited a number of Parisian sights including the Louvre, Notre-Dame, the Champs-Élysées, the banks of the Seine, the Sacré-Coeur and Fontainebleau, as well as spending a day in the science museum and attending workshops.

They also spent a day in the French school during which the French and British students wrote and performed a range of bilingual sketches. At the centre, sporting activities included an initiation in cricket for the French and an initiation in pétanque for the British! Both groups also benefited greatly from the free interaction time during the week and enjoyed the whole experience. In the words of Emily Moss (L6): "We melanged well, made some new amis and ameliorated our français (and perhaps our franglais aussi!)"

(mélanger= to mix, amis=friend, améliorer= to improve, aussi=also)

Ski Trip, California (6)



California in the sun was the perfect setting for the Easter ski trip. The skiing was in Southern California's highest ski resort, Big Bear, and even though it was late in the season the group were blessed with good snow and many of the slopes all to themselves. The views from the top of Big Bear and its neighbour, Snow Summit, were amazing, with Los Angeles 100 miles away in one direction and the Nevada desert to Las Vegas in the other.

The skiing was fabulous, with plenty to occupy everyone at every level. The instructors were terrific and helped the complete beginners to progress so quickly that they were soon tackling some of the more difficult slopes.

The atmosphere on the mountain each day was vibrant and exciting and it was made even more so when Justin Beiber popped into town for a spot of snowboarding. He was quickly surrounded by members of The King's School but was polite and accommodating of their wishes for a chat and some photos.

As one would expect of California, the weather was perfect for the whole week and the group toured, visited and skied under clear blue skies and a warm sun. The skiers were excited about what they saw and what they did, from skiing at full speed during the day to bowling or laser tag in the evenings and it was no surprise that they landed safely back in Manchester full of stories to tell.

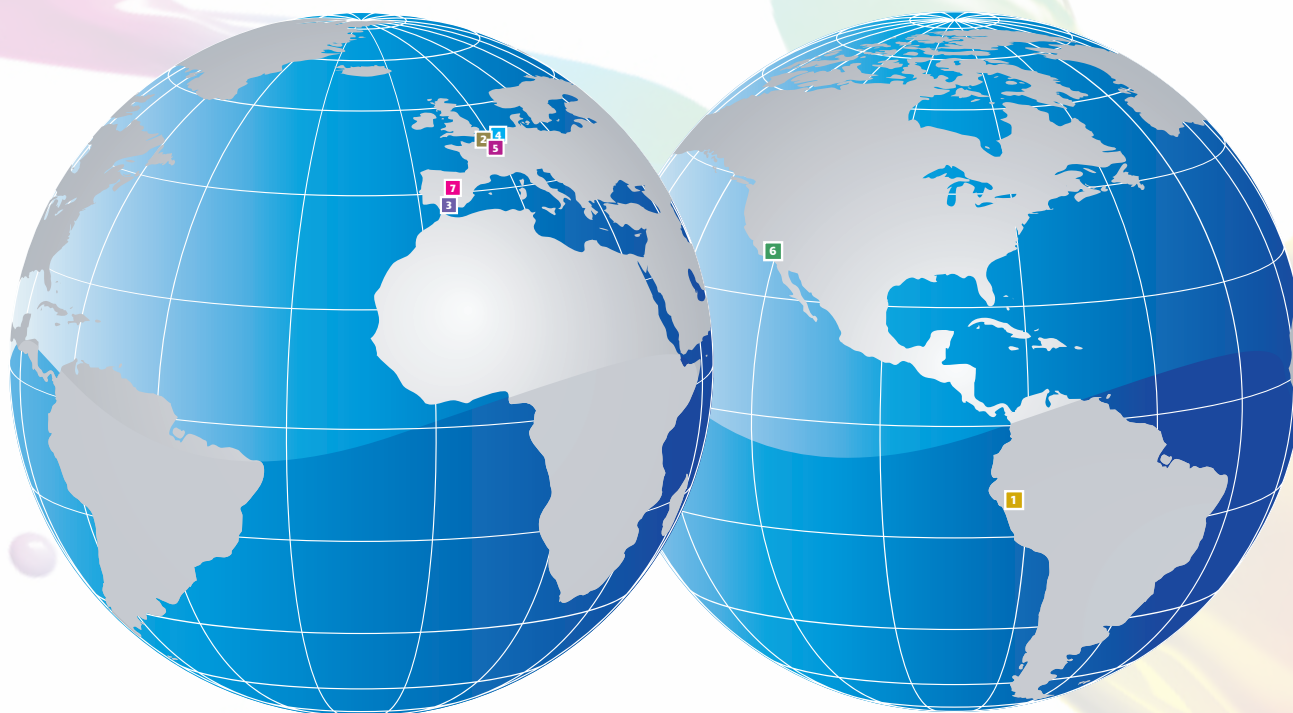
Spanish Exchange (7)



In October, 45 students from the Third, Fourth, Fifth Years and Sixth Form ventured to Spain for the return leg of the Spanish exchange. The exchange school was called Colegio Laude Fontenebro which is 45km North West of Madrid in the town of Moralzarzal.

Over ten days, the students visited many culturally diverse places including day trips to the medieval village of Chinchón, the academic capital of Salamanca, the fortified town of Toledo and the impressive Roman aqueduct in Segovia. They also enjoyed a fun day sightseeing on a 'hop-on, hop-off' tourist bus and a trip to Xanadú shopping centre in Arroyomolinos.

The highlight was undoubtedly the football 'friendly' between King's and the Laude School. King's team showed great skill but had to settle for second place to the Spaniards (they are World Champions after all!) We look forward to future visits between the two schools.



Departments

Academic departments regularly go beyond exam requirements and basic teaching, and 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



With the 2011 GCSE and A level results in both Language and Literature comfortably exceeding expectations, including full marks at AS level for Lara Goodwin (L6), the year began in fine style for the English Department, and AS and A2 results the following January were similarly impressive. Whole-day weekend revision sessions certainly proved their worth. The surge of interest in English Language and Linguistics has continued, with Upper Sixth students Miranda Harle and Nicole Clerk securing places to read these subjects at Edinburgh University and King's College London respectively, and the Department was further delighted by Head of School, Luke Howarth, securing the offer of a place to read English at Christ Church College, Oxford.

Dickens' bicentenary was handsomely celebrated by some very creative competitions in the Wickson Library, and the School's 'Passion for Poetry' has also continued unabated, with highly successful sonnet and free verse competitions and a poetry-reading marathon to rival anything on offer in London 2012! Creative writing continues to flourish, and a splendid residential course at the

Welsh Centre for Alternative Technology provided much (recycled) food for thought! As ever, a wide range of theatre trips has been undertaken, with students enjoying *The Playboy of the Western World* – appropriately enough in the West End! – and *Dr Faustus* at Shakespeare's Globe, as well as *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *An Inspector Calls* and *Mary Shelley* closer to home in the Liverpool Playhouse.

King's Radio has been brought to birth from its studio in room 10, and the new animation software proved 'a very palpable hit' on Open Morning – and cast a whole new light on the 'star-crossed lovers' of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.

Maths



The Mathematics department enjoyed record results last summer and this momentum was built on by expanding the series of after-school lectures that push beyond the syllabus in the Michaelmas term, which an average of 30 pupils attended. A trip to see Stand-Up Mathematician was thoroughly enjoyed, whilst back in school Mr Parry discussed Maths in Art, Mr Shepherd spoke about Game Theory and Mr Ward addressed the History of Maths.



We also enjoyed our customary success in Maths Challenges in which 19 Gold, 41 Silver and 41 Bronze certificates were awarded at Senior and Intermediate levels. Sean Telford (L6) and Eleanor Barnard KS (5ths) were awarded 'Best in School' and Sean was selected to participate in the British Maths Olympiad. Andrew Darby (3rds) achieved a Distinction certificate in the Cayley Olympiad, for which he received a medal, book prize and invitation to attend a Mathematics Masterclass event at the University of Liverpool. In team challenges, the Junior team came a creditable third in their regional final, but our Senior team, comprising Sean Telford KS, Matthew Temple (both L6), Fred Norman and Ryan Thompson (both U6), were winners, competing against 30 other schools. This took them forward to the national final in London where the team put in another superb, if not victorious performance.

Three pupils performed extremely well in the Junior Maths Challenge, Wilf Le Brocq (Shells) received the highest score achieved in recent years by a pupil at King's with a score of 120. Sheil Sethi and Owen Edwards (both Removes) followed closely behind, putting them in the top 0.5% in the country at Maths for their age group.

The new Mathematics website covers many up-to-date developments: www.kingschester.co.uk/maths and we also invite readers to join discussions on Twitter @KSCMaths.



Chemistry



In the first term of this school year, Adam Davies was identified as having achieved the highest mark of the 45,000 students who completed A level Chemistry in the summer.

A number of students were recognised for their strong performance in the first ever Cambridge Chemistry Challenge, one of whom, Bradley Davies (U6), has subsequently received an offer from Oxford to read Chemistry.

Other highlights of the year include the introduction of Enrichment sessions in which Removes to Third Year took part in Salter's Chemistry activities, and Fourth Year students participated in some challenging organic chemistry sessions, synthesising a variety of medicines and learning some practical techniques, which would not normally be introduced until A level.

Music



It has been another incredibly successful year in the Music School, with highlights that include the termly Choral Evensong and newly-introduced Choral Mattins services at Chester Cathedral, high quality performances of substantial works such as Saint-Saëns' *Carnival of the Animals*, Schubert's "*Unfinished*" *Symphony*, Cimerosa's *Oboe Concerto*, Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* and Vivaldi's *Gloria*, plus a spectacular production of *Jekyll & Hyde* in the Vanbrugh Theatre.

There has been a further increase in the number of ensembles taking place within the Music School, including a newly formed Swing Band, which will act as a feeder group for the senior Big Band, and new Strings and Wind ensembles for pupils in Removes to Third Year. King's also now boast a very popular student-run Ukulele Society, led with great enthusiasm by Polly Morris (L6).

The Music department has continued the tradition of inviting high quality musicians to visit King's, with the fourth annual masterclass from renowned pianist John Gough, as well as a strings and oboe masterclass with musicians from the BBC Philharmonic. King's pupils have performed extensively in the local community, giving concerts at St. Werburgh's Catholic Church, the St. Mary's Centre, Eaton Hall, Chester Cathedral, the Queen's Hotel in Chester and Waverton Village Hall. In addition, a considerable amount of money has been raised for charity during the course of the year, most notably the concert with the Chester Catholic HS in March, which raised over £12,000 for the Spinal Injuries Unit at Gobowen Hospital. Significant sums have also been raised for Macmillan Cancer Support and Aspire as well as the Chester Cathedral Choir.

King's pupils have continued to represent the School in both regional and national ensembles: several pupils continue to be members of the Hallé Youth Orchestra, Hallé Youth Choir and Cheshire Youth Orchestra, and, in addition to the Hallé Youth Choir, Helena Cooke (U6) has also sung with the St. Endellion Festival Chorus and Rodolfus Choir, and is one of eight King's pupils singing in this year's Chester Festival Chorus in a concert with the RLPO. King's also continues to provide several choristers to the Chester Cathedral Choir as well as other cathedral and church choirs in the area. In November, Selim Ungut (U6) won the inaugural Chester Young Musician of the Year competition, and he has also given several recitals in the local area and performed the first movement of Grieg's *Piano Concerto* with the King's Chamber Orchestra.

The Music School also held a PlayDay for local Primary School pupils in October, which was a huge success and is due to be repeated in future years.

Modern Foreign Languages



Debating a topic such as 'religion makes good men evil' sounds challenging enough, but six Sixth Formers faced the added challenge of performing in French, German or Spanish when they took part in the Northern Schools' Modern Foreign Languages debating competition in November 2011. Our students were complimented not only for their good language skills but also for their lively, good humoured approach to the event and above all for their ability to react spontaneously and creatively to their opponents' arguments.

Six students took part in the 2012 Linguistics Olympiad in which linguistic puzzles included

goats, cats and dogs chasing each other in Esperanto, numerals in Waorani (a language spoken by about 600 native Americans in Ecuador) and an Arcturian intergalactic peace message! Particular congratulations go to Emily Moss (L6) who achieved Silver standard and to Eleanor Bunting (U6) who achieved Bronze standard.

RS Philosophy



King's welcomed Mr Rees to the School as Head of Religious Studies and Philosophy in September and he has been impressed by the exceptionally high standards of work and dedication to the subject which have been demonstrated by students of all ages.

Philosophical enquiry thrives in our classrooms and is actively pursued beyond their walls. The Socratic Dialogue Society, originally set up for Fourth Year to Upper Sixth became so successful that a second group, The Duns Scotus Society (frequently led by more senior members of the school) was established this year for Shells and Third Year pupils. In March, the Sixth Form welcomed Professor David Thomas from the University of Birmingham who delivered a fascinating lecture on Islam, providing the students with a broader understanding of the philosophy of religion.

ICT and Computing



The British Informatics Olympiad is a programming competition in which pre-university students are asked to solve knotty programming problems such as how to interpret the shape of Alien generated crop circles. Raymond Williams (U6), Nathan Addison KS (L6), Chris Churchman (L6), Mike Concannon (L6) and Ronan Kumar (L6), hacked their best code within the time limits, but unfortunately were not chosen for the British team – they will try again next year.

Enrichment

'A broadening of the learning experience' is the vision for Enrichment at King's. This has certainly been the case for those involved as the programme reaches the end of its first year. Students have been allowed to try courses they may never have been able to without this choice.

Students have had the opportunity of working collaboratively and independently on courses ranging from Biodiversity and Animation to new academic subjects such as Psychology and Astronomy. It gives one a renewed sense of passion for education to walk the halls during an enrichment afternoon and feel this energy along with a sense of academic rigour as the students pursue, for many, uncharted territory.

Here we illustrate just a small selection of the 40 Enrichment options available.

Young Scientists



Over the course of a term the Removes were exposed to biological concepts and ideas that they might not otherwise have met until much later in life. The programme started by looking at exercise, heart rate and blood pressure. Pupils then went on to explore the response to light in maggots and ran Chester (Maggot) Races!

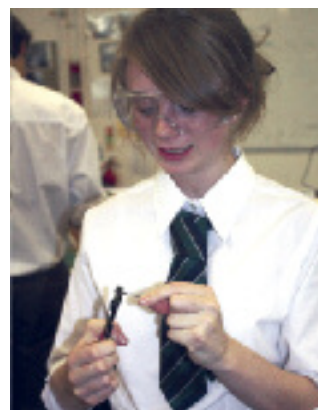
They followed this by investigating the breathing apparatus of salmon with a dissection and explored the question of how they breathe under water. The Removes managed to produce lactose reduced milk by immobilising lactase enzymes;

they also learned the medical problems associated with those who cannot produce lactose.

Finally, pupils had a very hands-on experience with a huge range of living organisms, including amphibians, reptiles, scorpions, chinchillas, cockroaches, giant rats and spiders.

A visiting speaker gave a fascinating talk about fears and phobias and how adaptation, natural selection and evolution have shaped the way animals look and feel.

Electronics



The Electronics enrichment group have studied a wide range of electronic systems over the year, varying from simple circuits with cells and LEDs to more complex digital systems using flip-flops and 555 timers. At each stage it has

been very 'hands-on' and the group have mastered many skills; particularly circuit design on paper, testing on prototype boards and circuit building skills onto stripboard, including soldering. The group have also learnt the symbols and uses of many common components and have been able to see how logic gates can be used to construct electronic systems designed to carry out particular tasks. Small individual projects have been carried out and it is hoped that the knowledge and skills developed throughout the year will encourage the students to study the subject further in their own time.



Mandarin



Students from Shells to the Sixth Form chose Mandarin for their enrichment sessions. In addition to some basic conversation, they have learnt how to count, have been introduced to the Chinese zodiac and to writing Chinese characters.

This famously difficult language has become more familiar and the students have begun to appreciate the subtleties of both speaking and studying in Chinese.

Italian



Italian for beginners has proved a popular option this year, with two groups of Third Year pupils studying the language and culture of Italy. Following everyday life in a small Tuscan town, the students have learned how to meet and greet people, use numbers and dates, describe themselves and their interests, talk about their families and homes and shop for food and other items. They have also enjoyed practising conversations in Italian and researching and delivering presentations on the history, geography and gastronomy of different regions of Italy.

Biodiversity



More than 40 Shells to Upper Sixth Form pupils have been working on a variety of projects since September. One area has been the practical side of biodiversity – designing raised beds and cultivating vegetables – and the pupils are excited about harvesting their produce before the end of the academic year. Other projects have included visiting Meadowbank Farm to see biodiversity in action, building and erecting 20 nest boxes, cleaning out the pond and planting about 1,000 native spring bulbs. A particular highlight was the visit of a local ecologist who spoke to the group about Chester Zoo's conservation work. Finally, pupils have been exploiting the camera box linked to the screen in the Walsh wing corridor to monitor and study the school's surprising bird life.

Psychology



The new Enrichment programme saw the opportunity to offer Psychology for the first time with many students undertaking the challenge of GCSE Psychology. The course has been very

popular with 28 students from Fourth Year to Upper Sixth Form signing up. Psychology is of course 'the study of the mind' and has given students an insight into memory, non-verbal communication, research methods, stereotyping, discrimination and antisocial behaviour disorder. Students designed and carried out studies and have also researched subjects including the validity of eye witness accounts and state dependent memory among other things. There is a wealth of talented pupils in the Psychology group this year and all have relished the challenge of a new subject and a new way of thinking.

Young Enterprise



This year's students from the Upper and Lower Sixth Form came together during Enrichment to set up two separate companies; *Gloo* and *Horizon*. The first half of term was spent electing a leader, deciding on a fundraising strategy, setting up a bank account and coming up with a business idea. Both teams were very successful in raising sufficient capital to run with their product idea by holding various fundraising events.

Horizon created an innovative Learner Driver Kit which included L plates and local driving instructor discounts. *Gloo* experienced some difficulties in getting their product ideas passed by Young Enterprise, but continued to generate revenue through event organisation.

At the Chester Area Board finals, *Horizon* won first place for the Best Trade Stand. Both teams gained invaluable experience of setting up and running a small business which will stay with them for life.

Radio



This year has seen the exciting arrival of School Radio to King's as part of the Enrichment programme. Pupils of all ages have been given the opportunity to record their own radio show as a podcast. They have been working in groups researching their ideas and then putting together a show consisting of a mixture of music and feature items, ranging from discussions over the dramatic end of the recent TV series Sherlock to topical sports quizzes. The radio option has provided pupils with both a creative and technical challenge, encouraging pupils to use programmes such as Audacity and Google's Blogger to record a running diary of their progress.

Community Action



As part of the Enrichment programme the Sixth Form had the opportunity to opt for Community Action, which involved going out into the local community to support those in need. Activities ranged from helping local primary schools to visiting residential homes and working in charity shops.

Charles Geary (U6), said:

"Overall, this has been a rewarding and unique enrichment choice."

Nicole Clerk (U6) reflected on her experience:

"The challenging aspect of the visits and the fact that initially I was thrown out of my comfort zone make me thankful for the experience. I feel it is important to be given the opportunity to do something that you would never normally even think about trying".

A particularly strong link has been re-established with Lache Primary School whose Head wrote:

"I just wanted to drop you a line to say thank you for organising the students last Friday. They are an absolute credit to your school! All pupils were very polite and a joy to have visiting the school. We were in the middle of an arts project so they were able to get involved in that and the class teacher tells me they were great with our children. We look forward to welcoming them back next week".

The King's School

Colouring their lives forever...





Clubs

Too much goes on in the School's 140 clubs, societies and activities every term to be reported fully – instead, we highlight below just some of their achievements from the past year.

Drama



What a splendid year for drama this has been! Each production offered something distinctly different, but each in their own fashion succeeded in scaling the artistic heights.

September saw a remarkable Sixth Form production of Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*. Nobody could fail to be impressed with the quality of performances under the direction of Luke Howarth (U6). A

professional company would have struggled to have achieved such standards, a view shared by visiting actor, Ronald Pickup OKS, who was royally entertained as part of the audience.

December saw Emma Lucia's production of Vanbrugh's play *The Country House*, reportedly the first performance for more than 200 years! A cast drawn from across all age ranges succeeded in capturing the spirit of this gentle comedy in a manner which paid homage to the playwright after whom our theatre has been named.

For many, the pinnacle of the dramatic year was the musical *Jekyll and Hyde*. With two different casts playing to packed houses, the full range of talents was on show. The thunderous applause and standing ovations which met the climax of each night's performance stands as testament to how successful they were. Yet, it should be remembered that this was as much a success for those who worked tirelessly behind the scenes as those who stood in the spotlight.

It is to be hoped that such high standards can be sustained and even exceeded next year.

Duke of Edinburgh



Over 100 pupils have registered for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme this year. Our expedition company, Plas y Brenin, have been busy working with bronze, silver and gold candidates to prepare them for their expeditions. Members of the Fourth Year attended a one day training session in school to learn the basic skills of navigation, first aid and campcraft. They were then able to put these new skills into action the following day at Moel Famau Country Park, with some groups even braving the cold and snow.

The Award also requires pupils to participate regularly in three other activities for the 'volunteering', 'skill' and 'physical recreation' sections.





Chess



Once again it has been a most successful year with many students taking part in local and regional competitions. In October, the School hosted the Cheshire and North Wales Junior Championships for the third successive year with 23 of the 145 students taking part being King's students. Year championships were won by Sam Arshad-Roberts (5ths), Susan Gorman (5ths) and Matthew Temple (L6) whilst Davin Menon (L6) was the overall tournament Champion. In addition, King's were the top overall school and highest scoring senior school. In February, the School played host for the first time to the Northern Special Qualifying round of the Yateley Manor National Schools' Chess Championships; King's were able to field two strong teams. The King's A team won all their matches, but due to an age handicap were runners up to Bolton School, whilst King's B were placed third. In March, King's A played current National Schools' champions, Manchester Grammar School, for the first time in many years. King's A team fought valiantly on all six boards during the two hours of play and both teams were quite evenly matched, however Manchester Grammar eventually got the upper hand. This was the A team's first actual defeat in two years and only their second in over four years. In April, twelve qualifying students competed in the regional Mega Final of the British Land Chess

Challenge in Warrington; Ryan Thompson (U6), Susan Gorman (5ths), Sam Arshad-Roberts (5ths), Mariam Littler (J4), Arjun Bulasubramaniam (J4), Jack Walker (J4) and Matthew Hynes (J3) played exceptionally well and are now through to the national Giga Final in the summer. In addition, King's has also continued to provide county and national players during the course of the year.

Classics



There was a dramatic start to the activities of the Removes' Classics Club this year with their performance at the Open Day and in assembly of Victoria Wilson-Theaker's (U6) mini-tragedy: *Agamemnon*, bringing the ancient city of Mycenae and the world of Troy into the Vanbrugh Theatre. A brace of murders, a battle, some suitably lugubrious choral odes and a 'moral' all contributed to a convincing (albeit modernised) experience of Greek Tragedy. Since then, the group has created a plasticine pantheon, monsters to grace the Classics rooms and a model of a complete Roman *thermae* (Roman baths) complex. Thanks to all who have been involved and to the Sixth Formers who have given their time.

Creative Writing



Inaugurated in October, just after this year's inspiring creative writing residential weekend, Creative Writing Club is one of several activities at King's organised entirely by members of the Sixth Form for younger pupils. The club got off to a roaring start with several pupils

submitting winning entries to both the 'Young Writers' Mini Saga competition' and the 'Express Yourself' poetry anthology competition. And, while many students have chosen to enter such competitions, others have joined simply for the joy of writing itself. Group activities are especially popular and pupils have enjoyed the writing of both stories and poems, creating worlds from the far flung future, or the depths of antiquity, bringing to life an array of characters that almost seem to step off the page!

Charities



This academic year has been the first where an official committee of Sixth Form students have taken on the challenge of mobilising the school for charitable thought and work. They have been a pleasure to work with, being full of both compassion and innovative ideas for action.

Regular, small scale work with Tutor groups has been brilliantly led by Tutors, and several members of staff have performed heroics outside of school to raise awareness and money for good causes.

The larger, whole-school events have once again been a reason for great celebration as they have allowed King's to shine as a community. Sport Relief, organised and run by the Charity Committee, was a great success; from the dodgeball competition to the fancy dress mile, it was a joyful day at King's.

CCF



The CCF has enjoyed a very productive year with a wide range of activities on offer across both sections. The year started with a new selection process for senior cadets involving an interview board, discussion group and practical leadership; the process proved effective at filling the posts required. More activities soon followed with a field exercise in October climaxing with a platoon ambush on the school grounds, plus a Christmas event which involved scored command tasks where difficult problems were overcome with teamwork and communication.

Matthew Temple's (L6) gliding scholarship demonstrated the very best of what RAF Cadets can achieve if they have the motivation and commitment with Matthew having solo control of an aircraft before he could be legally entrusted with a car!

The highlight for the Army section was the Easter Camp in which over 20 cadets from all years braved ice, ration packs, heavy bergans and an enemy determined to disrupt their sleep as much as possible!

Geography Society



The Geographical Society, in addition to its academic focus of lectures, debates and production of the special Eco Eye journal, has continued to run the popular Fair Trade tuck shops and Fair Trade Cafés this year. The aim of both ventures is to raise awareness of Fair Trade issues as well as raising money for Water Aid: over £2600 since its conception in 2009.

The Fair Trade Cafés have seen an even greater variety of entertainment this year with stand-up comedy from Ketan Dhital (U6), modern dance from Alice Cousins (3rds) and singing and guitar from Charlie Gruffydd-Jones, Charlie Plews and Erika Ignata in Shells; the Sixth Form Jazz band and the staff band have further added to the musical variety. The events are extremely popular and see pupils from all year groups mixing together.

Passion for Poetry



Conceived by a Lower Sixth English Literature class almost two years ago, the Passion for Poetry society began as a small group of pupils meeting fortnightly with Mrs Lydon to discuss some of their favourite poems. However, it quickly became apparent to those involved that there was a remarkable number of burgeoning poets throughout the school. So, with the intention of encouraging poetry writing and reading, 'P4P' (as they were soon christened) launched a

number of poetry competitions and organised several events at which the shortlisted entries were read aloud, alongside some well-known poems of a similar theme. The judging process was often made difficult by the quality of the poems submitted, but never ceased to be enjoyable for the society, who have recently been compiling an anthology of the winning poems for publication to celebrate the literary creativity of pupils at King's.

This year, Passion for Poetry have also enjoyed a workshop from the professional poet Clive McWilliam, which allowed writers from all year groups both to reflect on the work of an award-winning poet, and to improve their own writing by listening to his advice. Although leaving in the summer, the founding members look forward to hearing about further development of the society in the future.

Fencing



The King's Fencing Club, coached by Valeris Scipanovs, took part in the Cheshire Schools' Fencing Competition earlier this year. Fencing against well-established clubs, with several England Champions in their midst, the whole team showed grit and determination. Captained by Oliver Berry (3rds), they worked together superbly to fight for every point and were awarded a well-deserved bronze medal.

Duns Scotus



The Duns Scotus Society was established to allow students to discuss perennial issues and grapple with famous thought experiments. Duns Scotus was a prominent Medieval scholar who was often referred to as 'Doctor Subtilis' for his penetrating and subtle manner of thought.

In its first year The Duns Scotus Society has become known as quite the opposite of the term "dunce" (someone who is incapable of scholarship). The Shells and Third Year pupils who have attended have been intelligent and lively in their thoughts. Some of the Sixth Form RS and Philosophy students have impressed members by leading sessions ranging from the prisoners' dilemma and game theory by Jack Rhodes (U6) to the meaning of the 'Good Samaritan' by Meredith Benson (L6). This has been a thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding activity.

Library



Once again a team of four keen readers from Removes and Shells have represented King's in the annual Cheshire Schools' Book Quiz. Isobel Larken KS (Shells), Rose Lindley (Shells), Charlotte Lewis (Removes) and Sadie Nathan (Removes) have enjoyed reading six set books and demonstrating their literary knowledge in the quiz which took place between October and May.

Library club takes place every Monday and is attended by a group of creative Removes. Students have enthusiastically reviewed books and created eye-catching displays to promote reading and library activities. Students have also taken part in quizzes, competitions and a webcast by author Charlie Higson to celebrate Halloween, the bicentenary of Charles Dickens' birth and World Book Day. Catriona Hogg (3rds), Penny Downes (3rds), Emily Jones (3rds) and Barnaby Rule KS (Shells), winners of the World Book Day quiz, all received signed copies of books by Robert Muchamore, Teresa Flavin and Johnny O'Brien.

Sixth Form

King's Sixth Form offers an independent and inspirational environment. With excellent academic achievements and involvement in a wide variety of extra-curricular activities, our students have gone from strength to strength this year.

The start of the new academic year for the Upper Sixth is always a busy period and it began with a wonderful student-directed production of *Waiting for Godot* in the Vanbrugh Theatre led by the new Head of School, Luke Howarth (U6). A newly-elected Head Prefect team with new duties and titles took up their roles in the academic, sporting and pastoral side of the school and did a superb job in embedding the new system and fulfilling their responsibilities with aplomb. UCAS applications beckoned by October half-term and, even in the competitive environment that students face with university places, King's students achieved a great deal with an average of over four offers per student and over 40 students obtaining offers from all five of the universities they applied to.

There was great success in Model United Nations (MUN) with commended and outstanding delegates awards; a team of Sixth Formers won the regional UK Maths Challenge; those involved with the IFS Student Investor Challenge also reached the regional finals, and the Young Enterprise company, Horizon, attended the Chester and Cheshire West area board final. There was also success for Davin Menon (L6) in the chess world as he was selected to represent Wales in the World Chess Championship.

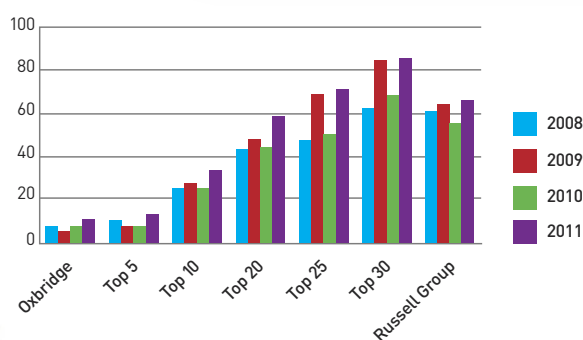
In the musical world of Sixth Form the standard of concerts were outstanding and Selim Ungut (U6) was awarded Chester Young Musician of the year. Many Sixth Formers were involved in *Jekyll and Hyde* either

performing, playing in the orchestra or working backstage to bring this piece of theatre to life in front of packed houses.

In the sporting arena King's students continued to be highly successful with a tremendous football season, the 1st XI being crowned Chester & District champions, and hockey season, the U19 girls maintaining their position as district hockey champions, whilst many rowers achieved great success leading to trials for Great Britain.

There were many charitable events which the Sixth Form ran during the year as they showed great invention for Children in Need, helped to run and perform in the Fair Trade Cafés, organised a Help for Heroes cake sale and generated a whole host of events for the Sport Relief week including an entertaining fancy dress Friday which included a mile long fun run! Once again, it was a tremendously busy but highly successful year for the Sixth Form.

Percentage of pupils' destinations to "The Times" Top Universities



Sport

Sport plays a huge part in the lives of King's students. From rowing to rounders and football to gymnastics the range continues to grow, ensuring there is a sport for everyone. Success on the sports field and on the water this year prove that King's is undoubtedly a leader when it comes to school sport.

Girls' Hockey



Hockey, once again, has proved to be a successful and popular extra-curricular activity for girls at King's. The 1st XI hockey squad had a triumphant season playing 33 games, winning 22, drawing five and losing six. Millie Johnson (captain), Kate Coppack and Megan Rudge (all U6) have played in the 1st XI squad for three years, which shows their talent, aptitude and dedication. The season started particularly successfully with the squad winning the Cheshire round of the National Schools' Championships and then progressing through to the North West semi-final where they were runners-up. King's have played in the U19 North West semi-final for four consecutive years, as the strongest school at this age group in Cheshire. Individuals continue to develop with Lexi Garnett (L6) playing for the U17 Cheshire County Squad and Hannah Dent (L6) playing in the North Wales squad.

The U15/U16 team have had a very successful year finishing as winners of the U15 Cheshire and District Indoor tournament, winners of the U16 Cheshire Indoor tournament and runners-up of the U16 Cheshire and District Indoor tournament. This team have played consistently well throughout the season winning eight, drawing one and only losing two of their eleven games. Twenty girls have represented the school and Kitty Abberton, Lucy Armatage, Ellie Crisp, Ellie Kearney-Mitchell, and Katharine Pownall (all 4ths) have played for Cheshire U15s and West Cheshire and Wirral U15s with Kitty Abberton, Katharine Pownall and Ellie Kearney-Mitchell being chosen to play at Regional level.

The U14 squad won 15 of their 25 matches and had a superb end to their season. They were runners-up in the U14 Chester and District Tournament and put in a great performance in the County Finals to finish as runners up in Cheshire.

The U13 squad had great strength in numbers and the commitment by so many of the year to playing team hockey is to be commended. They played 25 fixtures this season, winning 15, drawing one and losing nine. They finished as runners up in the Chester and District Indoor competition and reached the semi-finals of the Cheshire round of the National Mini hockey competition, losing in a penalty stroke competition to Fallibroome after a drawn match. Individual County successes this year have gone to Erika Ignata (Shells) representing East Cheshire and Rachel Huber (Shells) for West Cheshire.

The U12 Girls have had a successful season with the majority of the year group attending weekly training sessions and representing the School. The U12 A squad have played 17 fixtures over the season, winning 13, drawing one and losing three. In the King's Invitational Tournament the squad came second only losing one game. U12 B squad have played 16 fixtures over the season, winning nine, drawing three and losing four; they are one of the strongest B squads we have had at King's for a few years with many of them having played in the A squad over the season. The U12s are a committed, talented group who look to be hopeful in their progression up to 11-a-side hockey and in the National Schools' In2Hockey Tournament which they will be entering next year.

Boys' Hockey



Boys' hockey at King's has gone from strength to strength over the past few years and this year was no different.

The 1st X1 had a largely successful season winning 14 of their 22 games and being crowned Cheshire Champions. Unfortunately in the North West finals, key injuries meant that although the side gave a strong account of themselves, they did not progress to the National stages. This should not



detract from some excellent performances throughout the year culminating in a 10-0 victory over Wirral Grammar School on the last day of the season. The captaincy of Edward Peel (U6) supported by Harry Dodd-Moore (U6), and consistently strong performances by Jonathan Verity (L6), Thomas Armatage (Fifth Year) and Oliver Church (Fifth Year) in goal was a credit to the School.

The Junior end of the school showed great strength and promise for the future. The U14 team were also crowned County Champions and narrowly missed out on taking the North West Championship. Many of the boys in that squad are from the Removes and Shells so the future looks very promising indeed.

The U13 squad were the real success story of the year being crowned Cheshire Champions, North West Champions and North Champions, going on to the National Finals in May. This is an outstanding achievement, the team being unbeaten all year and scoring a remarkable 77 goals in 14 games, only conceding eight. The team is jointly captained by Daniel Verity (Shells) and Freddie Cheshire (Shells) and includes two Removes players.

The future of hockey at King's does indeed look very bright and the school is firmly placed on the top of the pile in Cheshire and the North West of England.

Rowing



The J14 squad showed excellent promise from the first session with a group of over 50 pupils. The training camp at Easter was attended by 36 pupils who trained hard for the week at Pangbourne College. The season opener at the Hampton Head was very encouraging with two boys' octuples, the top crew winning the event out of 30 crews. At the National Sculling Head, King's achieved a unique triple: following on from last summer's success of

winning all the octuple events at the National Schools' Regatta, the 2011-2012 boys' squads won the 1st, 2nd and 3rd boys' octuple event, a feat which will be very difficult for any club to ever achieve again. This placed King's as the leading J14 school in the country. The girls performed well with a 3rd position.

At the National Schools' Regatta the J14 produced a set of fantastic results. The J14 boys' 2nd octuple won a bronze medal amongst some stiff competition, with the J14 1st octuple finishing in 4th place. The boys coxed quad produced an excellent row to reach the semi-finals. The girls octuple backed up their row at the Schools' Head by winning a bronze medal in an exciting finish.

The J15 squad competed throughout the head season with two boys' Vllls and two girls' Vllls. Strong performances throughout the head season, most markedly the boys' A VIII winning at Wallingford Head, set up a good run of Schools' Head results, with the boys' championship VIII coming in 3rd whilst the 2nd VIII came 2nd. The girls' VIII came 2nd in the J15 girls category, but by less than a second. All members of the J15 squad attended the training camp in Ghent where many of them competed in their first ever International event. The girls' squad excelled at the inter-regionals where the coxed four won the event.

Strong results at the Nottingham City Regatta led to a mixed set of results at the National Schools' Regatta. The boys J15 1st VIII were disappointed to finish in 7th place, the boys J15 2nd VIII fought hard in the final to come 5th overall. The girls' coxed four raced a good qualifier and finished in 10th place overall. The performance of the weekend came from the J15 girls' VIII who finished in silver place in a very strong row ahead of The Lady Eleanor Holles School.

19 boys and 15 girls progress to their respective senior squads with national and international racing experience and will continue to develop as senior rowers.

The girls' senior squad has continued to develop and grow under the stewardship and watchful eye of Mr Kris Williams and a new member of the coaching team, Ms Hannah Blaikie OKS. The senior girls attended a training camp in Ghent after an encouraging 7th position at the Schools' Head of the River in Championship Vllls and a win for the coxed four in the U18 category, the first girls' win at the Schools' Head for a King's crew. The 1st coxed four then repeated this feat by winning the IM3 coxed four event at the Wallingford Regatta. King's won both the Novice and J18 girls' events at the North of England Head.

At the National Schools' Regatta the Girls' 1st coxed four finished in bronze medal position, the 1st VIII finished 6th in the Championship VIII final. Two good results to finish a strong season with.

The senior boys' squad divided into a group of 16 for the senior squad and a development squad, the Colts A, of 16 for the 2011-2012 season. Notable performances for the senior squad over the winter were multiple wins in the regional head races in small boats, as well as a strong performance at the Wallingford Head. At the Schools' Head the 1st VIII finished in 8th position in Championship Vllls and the 2nd VIII in 4th. After an extremely successful campaign at the Ghent Regatta the 1st VIII came a close 2nd behind St Paul's at the Wallingford Regatta; the week before the J16 VIII won the blue ribbon event at the Inter-Regional Regatta. The Colts A competed in a J16 VIII and J18 coxed four throughout the season with numerous regional level wins. The performance of the VIII at the Schools' Head to come 2nd and the Schools' coxed four to come 4th overall were very creditable performances.

At the National Schools' Regatta the J16 VIII produced the result of the day on Saturday as they won bronze in J16 1st Vllls, disappointingly the 1st and 2nd Vllls fell at the semi-final stage. However this was put right by the top coxless four with a dominant row in the championship coxless fours event on Sunday to win a silver medal.

The club continues to swell in number, now with over 150 members. 2012 also saw the launch of the 'Gold Squad', a new elite group set up to support the international aspirations of the club's top performers, and this newly formed partnership with the University of Chester has opened the potential for these athletes to receive top level support and physiological testing.

Harry Chappell, Harry Ashworth, William Miller and Freddy Hill (all U6) have produced excellent results so far on the GB pathway, with all four boys in a prime position to win an international seat and GB vest this summer. Harry Brightmore (U6) was invited to cox for Great Britain at the Munich Regatta where he won a Gold and a Bronze medal, whilst Courtney Dowinton (Girls' 1st VIII cox) has been selected as one of the three coxes to attend final GB trials. Alice Carr was selected to attend the GB J16 Sculling camp at Nottingham. Henrietta Green performed well at Welsh trials to secure a seat in the Home Countries squad whilst Jack Webber, Ralph Elsegood, Toby Miller and Finn Abberton (all 5ths) are looking to secure a place in the GB J16 squad to race France in early July. Fifteen of the King's rowers were invited to be part of the team to greet the Olympic Flame as it entered Chester, all chosen for their international aspirations and potential in the future.

Football



The 2011-12 season proved to be another memorable one for King's footballers. For a school the size of King's to play over 250 matches is a remarkable achievement in itself but to win close to two thirds of them is testimony not only to

the great dedication and commitment of the King's footballers but also their ability. Not surprisingly, the season contained many highlights and many impressive performances both by teams and individuals.

The Removes enjoyed superb contests against all of our traditional rivals as well as our nearer neighbours. Highlights were some terrific contests with Manchester Grammar School and victories against Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Grange School and Bolton School. Unfortunately the youngsters were given a tough draw in the District Cup and fell at the second hurdle in a close contest at Christleton. They reached the finals of the District 5-a-side competition and once again represented the school in the Manchester Grammar School 7-a-side tournament superbly.

The Shells worked hard all year and showed great improvement as the season progressed. Their involvement in the ISFA Cup ended with a debut trip to Foremarke after a terrific victory in the opening round against Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School.

The U14s had a successful season losing only eight of their 35 fixtures. Their season ended with a great win in the Chester & District Cup overcoming a very strong Blacon team in the final. Tommy Speed, Will Smith and Adam Sawney (all 3rds) were selected to represent the District.

The U15s, under the guidance of new coach, Mr Ortiz, had a great run in the County Cup eventually falling in the semi-final after beating some big footballing schools of the region. Victory over Repton in an epic contest would be the highlight of the 'regular' season and this team brought home a trophy too. Mr Ortiz was delighted with their performance to win the Chester & District 7-a-side tournament where Ben Johnson and Matt Holland (4ths) excelled. Sam Jones, Jack Powell and Matt Holland (all 4ths) represented the District and Jack continued to make great progress with the full ISFA squad, playing well against several professional Academy teams throughout the season.

The U16s were successful too. They made good progress in the County Cup, eventually falling at the quarter-final stage to Christleton. They did, however, bring home the Chester & District Cup.

The Seniors had yet another brilliant season and whilst the 1st XI obviously led the way there were many particularly pleasing aspects to the season in addition to their outstanding year. The 2nd XI had, according to Mr Morris, their most successful season ever with Kallum Marsden (U6) making a wonderful captain in every respect. They played 38 games and lost four, two of which were against opposition first teams. The 3rd XI played over 20 matches, winning more than half of them, sometimes against opposition second strings. A particularly pleasing aspect of the year was the fact that a school 4th XI took to the field on several occasions for the first time ever.

The 1st XI went through their 'domestic' season unbeaten, a remarkable achievement. They lost three games in a season of 44 fixtures and each of those defeats came in the latter stages of big cup competitions. Many performances were thrilling, some required great grit and determination and the squad proved itself equal to some great challenges. It was very much a squad

performance too as, over the course of such a demanding season, many players were required to step in and cover for missing colleagues and they did so admirably. The three cup defeats differed greatly. The ISFA Cup tie against Repton was tight and remained in the balance until very late in the game. Either team could have won with no complaints from the losers and on this occasion King's lost out. The other two defeats were both semi-finals: the Merseyside Shield and the Don Ormes Cheshire Cup. There were successes locally however. King's proved themselves to be the best Chester team winning both the 7-a-side tournament and completing a hat-trick of District Cup successes for the School with a resounding 7-0 victory in their final. Josh Murray (U6) overcame serious injury to return before the end of season and was selected to represent Cheshire. George Daly (U6) had a remarkable final year of school football scoring 35 goals and whilst there were several candidates for player of the year this was very much a squad effort.



Cricket

King's cricket continued to flourish in the 2011 season, with over 100 fixtures being played in a short, but hectic summer.

The major events of the summer were the U13 and U15 teams' foray into their respective National Competitions, entry to which is only granted to the previous summer's County winners. The U13 competition, the David English Bunbury Cup, saw King's host the perennially powerful Manchester GS and, despite a couple of good performances from individual players, the visitors were just too strong and King's were eliminated from the competition. However, their form returned later in the season and a great string of victories saw the squad reach the County final for the second successive year. Unfortunately Stockport GS posted a good score which King's never quite looked like reaching, the run chase finishing an agonising 7 runs short.

The U15s fared much better, though the draw was more favourable in the earlier stages. Pocklington School from East Yorkshire were easily dispatched, but there followed a thrilling home win over a strong, but very sporting Repton XI. The following game against the fancied Sedburgh School away was another great win, seeing King's crowned Northern Champions. Unfortunately the semi-final proved a step too far; the initial tie was curtailed owing to heavy rain and King's were unable to replicate their fine form in the replay, away at Denstone College. The U15s went on to also reach the semi-final of the County Cup, a great season for the squad and departing coach, Mr Goff.

The 1st XI had a 'season of two halves'. Their initial form was formidable, the team winning at King's Macclesfield and against several other early opponents. They were also in fine form in the National T20 competition, winning the 1st round games against Merchant Taylors' School and Bury GS, Arthur Thomas (U6) scoring 106 in the former game. Despite a narrow loss against a Bolton side fielding a Lancashire 2nd XI player (with Arthur Thomas again scoring a hundred) the team looked good in the block fixture against Merchant Taylors', with Joe Benson (U6) taking 5 for 36. Unfortunately King's Macclesfield got revenge in the second round of the T20 cup and following this game King's struggled for consistency, the pressure of exams and resultant player rotation being the main reasons for this. However, two wins in the end of term festival provided a good end to the year, with Oliver Thompson (U6) finishing a fine season of captaincy and a great seven years of cricket at King's.

The U14s produced some fine cricket through the season, the calm, thoughtful leadership of Dr Heritage allowing this team to, arguably, become the most improved squad in the school. The team's ability to scrape out narrow wins showed their character and after a tied match against Grange School they defeated Bolton School, Birkenhead, Wade Deacon, Stockport GS, Cheadle Hulme and Wilmslow HS. Defeat against a strong Calday GS in the quarter final of the County Cup was no disgrace and several players excelled through the season, Jonathan Wright and Jack Meadows (3rds) both posting fifties.

The U12s are a talented team who produced some fine batting and bowling displays, though these weren't always in the same game; particularly when they were needed. Only three sides were good enough to beat King's, and each of these sides' physical superiority was a factor in their victories. The first half of term saw the side undefeated, with Grange School, Bolton, (Matt Thompson (Removes) scoring 52 not out), NE Wales, King's Macclesfield, Merchant Taylors' School Crosby and Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School all dispatched. The three losses were disappointing, though the opposition did have the upper hand in these games and they were fair results. The biggest disappointment was the loss to Birkenhead School in the cup quarter final, when King's failed to capitalise on a wonderful fielding performance (Arthur Brummitt 4 for 15), and never looked like knocking off the runs required. The team finished on a high, however, with a ruthless demolition of Wilmslow HS.

Despite the heights reached by the top teams, perhaps the best example of the rude health of King's cricket is the performance of the 'second string' teams. The 2nd XI played well in the early part of the season before the inevitable disruption of exams, the highlight being the defeat of Bolton School, with Cameron Dunn (L6) taking four wickets and Dawson Murray (L6), Andrew Thomas and Sam Powell (5ths) all scoring runs.

U13B team, led by the remarkable Jack Watson (Shells), had a great season representing the school in the Chester & District League. Despite facing 'A' teams they won more games than they lost and the performances of several players showed promise; the aggressive Charlie Macloskey (Shells) forcing his way into the 'A' team for the cup run.

The U12B team also impressed, finishing the season undefeated. Despite forays into the 'A' team, captain Freddie Cheshire (Shells) showed great maturity in allowing everyone to contribute. This team will represent the school next season in the C&D league and have the potential to flourish.

So, King's cricket continues to thrive, and it is hoped that the teams will challenge for county honours again over the next couple of seasons.

Rugby



The King's School 1st XV for 2011-12 was captained jointly by Alex Caldwell and Charles Geary (both U6) and they did a super job, leading by example on the pitch and helping with the organisation off it.

The team played in some very tight games and King's made a name for themselves this year amongst the local schools and we look forward to continuing that development next year.

Swimming



Following the introduction of swimming sessions on Tuesday mornings and after school on Wednesdays, King's swimming has started to develop into a flourishing club. These regular sessions have allowed both club level and developing swimmers to improve their technique and fitness, something which stood King's in good stead in the Chester and District Galas, which were held in January.

King's swimmers acquitted themselves tremendously, winning the events at Yr 7 (both girls and boys), Yr 8 girls', Yr 9 boys' and senior boys' levels. In addition to winning five out of the eight galas, King's had several individual winners, with the most notable being Isobel Wild (Removes), Sam Wild (3rds) and Lloyd Stanley (L6), all of whom set new championship records, as did the Yr 7 girls' freestyle relay team of Isobel Wild, Jess Lee, Natasha Groome and Amelia Standing (all Removes).

In addition to the local events, King's entered the English Schools' Swimming Association (ESSA) National Relays for the first time. Sam Wild, Simon Ellershaw, Dan Weatherley and Alex Tan (all 3rds) achieved qualification for the Medley and Freestyle Relay Finals held in Southampton by swimming one of the top 16 times in the county at the North West Regional Championships in October. Competing in the finals as one of 16 teams nationwide, the boys were ranked 11th in the Medley Relay and 12th in the Freestyle Relay; and in both events they were ranked 2nd in the North West, a tremendous achievement.

The success of the boys is even more impressive when one considers that several of the schools present have long-established swimming programmes, with over 20 hours of pool time per week. It is also encouraging to see that the girls' team attended the regional trials with a young side who have every chance of matching the boys in the coming years.

Athletics



It was a very successful 2010-11 season for athletics. King's competed in the English Schools' Athletics Track and Field Cup held in Warrington in May. The girls' teams made up of Removes and Shells came 6th with the boys coming a creditable 5th. Notable performances were given by Natasha Tudor (3rds) in the 800m and Harry Strudwick and Sam Wild in the 400m (both 3rds).

Even without a complete team, King's Inter girls competed very well taking 10th place overall. Susan Gorman (5ths) achieved the most points in an individual event gaining 12 for the shot put. Katie Pownall (4ths) gained 16 points in the 100m and Shot, D'arcy Tuite 20 points in the 800m and long jump, and Gabi Tuite 18 points in the hurdles and discus. The Inter boys finished 7th with superb performances from Cameron Hogg (5ths) in the 400m with a personal best and an impressive 39 points from Cameron Thompson (5ths) in the hurdles and high jump.

In late May, it was the turn of the Removes to compete in the Minors' District Athletics. On the track Rachel Huber (Shells) and Jennifer McDonald (Shells) stole the show coming in 1st and 2nd in the girls' 1500m event, and Erika Ignata (Shells) gained 3rd place in the hurdles. In the field events the most notable performances came from Chloe Cowan (Shells) 3rd in the high jump and Jessica Middleton (Shells) 5th in the javelin. Based on these excellent performances all of the girls were chosen to represent Chester and District in the Cheshire competition later on in the term. It was a strong field from schools across Cheshire and Chloe Cowan came 4th in the high jump.

After competing well in last year's District athletics event the following students were chosen to represent Cheshire in the County round in Macclesfield. Natasha Tudor (3rds) in 800m, D'arcy Tuite in the 1500m, Emily Boothroyd (3rds) in 75m hurdles, Kitty Abberton (4ths), 5th in the javelin and Charlotte Frazer-Cox (U6) 2nd in the senior girls' 1500m. They will now represent Cheshire in the National competitions.

The season finished with the District athletics. All three of the girls' teams came second with some excellent performances in all age groups. Taking first place in their event were Marion Vickers (3rds) 100m, Jessica Jones (3rds) javelin, Lucy Armatage (4ths) 800m, Gabi Tuite hurdles, Sian Jackson (4ths) high jump and Alice Carr (5ths) 300m. The boys' teams also performed well with the Third Year and Fourth Year pupils coming in 3rd place and the Shells' team finishing in 4th place.

Gymnastics



The Friday lunchtime gymnastics club, run by Mr Lunn and Miss Huck, has been very successful and enjoyable for staff and pupils alike. A large number of Remove and Shell girls attended throughout the first two terms, working on developing their basic gymnastic floor skills and progressing on to pair and group work. They then learned skills on the box and flight work using

trampettes. The attitude of the girls, with the focus on their own personal achievement and their ability to work independently, was superb throughout the year.

Polly Chappell, Elise Back, Megan Jones and Anna Wallace (all Shells) took part in the U13 Chester & District Gymnastic Competition in December. Prior to the competition the girls had performed in a Shells' assembly, together with some equally good routines from Rachel Huber, Jennifer McDonald, Sarah Stearne KS and Jessica Middleton (all Shells).

Tennis



The U12s enjoyed their first year of tennis at King's in the 2010-11 season with a convincing win against Rydal to finish off the season on a high. In the six fixtures King's won one, drew two and lost three. All girls who attended

practices were able to represent the school and develop not only their tennis skills but their ability to work with a number of others in doubles work: a great lesson in cooperation, communication and organisation as part of a pair.

An able and enthusiastic year group, the U13 team played some excellent matches, often against tough opposition. There was a good core group who attended regular practices, gaining valuable match and practice experience. In the Aegon Team Tennis Competition the U13s lost to a very strong Altrincham team but beat both Queen's and Marple Hall, finishing in 2nd place.

The U14 team continued to play some excellent tennis throughout the season with a large group of committed players who played in a number of friendly fixtures. They beat teams such as Rydal, Queen's and Loreto during the short summer season. With several girls equally committed to their rowing, the girls in this year group continue to show great commitment to all aspects of their school sporting life.

The U15 tennis team played eight matches, winning three and losing five, with eight girls representing the school. In the Aegon Tournament, Henrietta Green, Eleanor Barnard (KS), Sara Ashworth and Harriet Robinson (all 5ths) played some excellent and well-fought tennis to finish runners up in their section. In the Chester and District Tournament, the same team narrowly missed out to being crowned winners, by a difference of one point. Friendly fixtures were played against St Bede's, Cheadle Hulme, Moreton Hall, Rydal and Queen's.

The U18 team won the Chester and District Tournament in style – beating Queen's, Christleton and Bishop Heber, by winning eleven out of their twelve matches. Team members were Jenny Corlett (U6), Hannah Dent, Emily Moss and Charlie Corciulo (all L6).

King's got very close to qualifying for the national finals of the Aberdare Cup Competition. They played Lymm in the area final played at King's in June. After the singles matches it was all square at two matches all, with Sian Bayliss and Emily Moss winning their singles games but Lymm unfortunately won both the doubles matches. It was a very creditable performance from the team made up of Sian Bayliss and Jenny Corlett (both U6), Emily Moss and Hannah Dent (both L6).

Boys' tennis teams had a successful season. Friendly fixtures were played on Saturdays against Manchester

Grammar School, Grange School, Ellesmere College and Rydal School. The results in all age groups were very encouraging. At Senior Level, King's competed in the National Schools' Tournament and were unfortunate to lose to Rydal in the second round. The U15 and U13 teams competed in The Aegon League and were unlucky not to qualify for a place in the finals.

A group of senior players (boys and girls) visited The Wimbledon Championships. All thoroughly enjoyed the day and witnessed some excellent tennis.

Cross Country



The girls took part in the Chester and District Cross Country in October, competing against eleven other schools in the District. The girls ran fantastically well and represented the school brilliantly. King's were the only school that managed to enter a full senior team and for the third year running took 1st place. King's also took 1st place in the Minors' competition which was run solely by Remove pupils and in the Inters race which is a mix of Fourth and Fifth Year pupils. Girls who come within the top 20 at this event then have the opportunity to represent Chester in the County Championships. There were some great individual performances: Martha Owen (Removes) was 2nd in the Minors' Race; Anna Willis (3rds) took 4th place in the junior race and Megan Pode KS (4ths) gained 2nd place in the Inters' Race. The seniors were very impressive: Charlotte Fraser-Cox (U6) came 2nd, Lucy Simmonds (L6) 3rd, Kate Coppack (U6) 4th and Miranda Harle (U6) 5th in the Senior Race.

In the boys' event King's once again managed to field a team in each age-group. The Minor boys' race, always the most competitive race, saw Tom Thelwall-Jones (Removes) placed 2nd in a strong field with Matthew Willis (Removes) in 3rd place. Strong placings from fellow Removes Josh Burke (9th) and Miles Meredith (17th) put King's in contention, but they were beaten overall by a strong Tarporley team. The Junior boys' team, comprising of Shells and Third Year pupils, saw King's also placed 2nd. A powerful run from Sam Pode (3rds), who was placed 3rd, set the scene for some strong performances from the King's athletes. Josh Dawson (Shells) came 13th, Tom Hill was 16th and Charlie Macloskey's 23rd place (both 3rds) again saw King's placed 2nd overall. In the Inter Boys' competition King's went one better, sharing the victory with Christleton HS. Ben Paxton (4ths) was placed 2nd, with Jack Duncalf, Cameron Hogg and Jack Webber (all 5ths) gaining 6th, 8th and 12th places respectively. A measure of

King's great attitude was that half of the field in the senior race were King's runners and the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 8th positions for Harry Ashworth, Will Miller, Fred Hill and Tom Stables (all U6) cemented their 1st place overall.

Following their success in the District event several boys represented Chester in the County Championships. Matt Willis (Removes) was placed 8th, with Josh Burke (Removes) also representing Chester in the Minor race. Josh Dawson placed 28th in the Junior boys' competition. Ben Paxton (4ths) raced very well, finishing 12th in the Inter boys' race, in which Jack Duncalf and Jack Webber (both 5ths) were placed 16th and 36th. The final county race saw three great runs from Harry Ashworth and Will Miller (both U6), who were both in the top 20 in the Seniors.

Netball



For the first time in the School's history we have been able to field 1st VII and 2nd VII netball teams this season. This was quite unexpected but very pleasing. Both teams have played regular Wednesday afternoon matches

travelling as far as Stonyhurst College but also playing against local schools and in the Chester and District Tournament. The U16 squad have had a steady season, coming 5th in their District tournament; Susan Gorman (5ths) has developed into an excellent goal keeper and Harriet Robinson (5ths) has also been outstanding. The U15 squad, captained brilliantly by Sian Jackson (4ths), have trained and played consistently well. The squad of ten players has not altered and neither has their commitment to netball; all the girls passed their Young Netball Organisers Course, enabling them to lead netball sessions and umpire younger pupils. The U14 squad, captained by Harriet Fisher (3rds), have played over 20 matches with some excellent results. The U13 squad, consisting of A and B teams, have had an outstanding season with the B team winning their end of season tournament. The A squad played some of their best netball in their tournament, losing in the semi-finals. The U12 squad also had a splendid season with approximately 30 girls regularly attending practices and all girls playing in at least one match against another school. The U12B team played 16 matches during the season and won 13 of them. The team attended the Chester and District 'B' tournament in March to end the season and came 3rd in the competition. The U12A team played 27 matches during the season and did not lose a single one. They were crowned champions in the Chester and District tournament in March – the first time King's has won this title at U12 level.

Basketball



The season was split into two halves, with the U16 team playing before Christmas and the U14 team between Christmas and Easter.

The lack of players at U16 level meant that the King's team were actually playing up a year and, as expected,

they faced some considerable physical difficulties. Despite this, the team opened up with a tight but well deserved win against Bishops' Bluecoat. King's then struggled against a gigantic and very skilful Upton team. The remaining fixtures saw a narrow loss against Catholic HS, a game notable for a tremendous, battling performance from Jack Meadows (4ths) and a disappointing loss to Queen's Park HS. This squad have a great deal of potential, which will hopefully be realised next year when they will be playing against opponents of the same age. The remaining players (James Wilkinson, Mark Breese, Aaron Soutter, James Kalaher, Toby Wilkinson, Reza Moghimi, Oliver Moore and Harry Woodward (all 4ths), are all showing promise and a special mention should go to Beth McKendrick (4ths) who has shown tenacity and no little skill even when confronted by much bigger and extremely physical players.

The U14 season had a similar story, with the squad only winning one of their games. However, the improvement over the season was very noticeable and both the players and coach deserve credit for this. Fergus Davidson (3rds) showed maturity and leadership in keeping the squad positive, and even in the losses to Bishop Heber, Queens Park HS and Catholic HS, the team showed spirit and a willingness to learn. All members of the squad made significant progress and they fully deserved their hard-fought victory over Bishops' Bluecoat in the final game.

Rounders



With a very short summer term and a few early downpours in May, the rounders season got off to a slow start in the 2010-11 season. Teams were fielded in U12, U13, U14 age groups for weekly matches and the U15 squad entered the tournament.

The U12 squad lost two of their three fixtures prior to the tournament but were ready for the challenge. In the tournament King's lost by one rounder in a frustrating first game against Bishop Heber; they went on to win their next two games, setting up a final game against Queen's which they narrowly lost. Despite this, it was a promising performance and one of which the whole team can be proud. They should look to build on a good first year of rounders.

The U13 squad were beaten only once in their run up to the end of season tournament. The U13 team were a delight to watch, thanks to their team spirit, co-operation and enthusiasm. They breezed through some early matches to reach and win the semi-final of the tournament, but sadly lost the final. They were delighted at being awarded runners-up however, and this team clearly has a great future – a winner's spot next year is their target.

The U14 squad played nine and won three matches in the run up to their tournament. This team has a wealth of experience and a good history in the tournaments.



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