

Celebrating another memorable year of The King's School, Chester

2012/13

King's eye

**King's
Olympians**
inspire a generation

Pitch Perfect...

Music is our very soul, we relax,
worship, are entertained and
motivated by it

New Sixth Form Centre

opens its doors with bigger and better
facilities for aspiring academics



THE KING'S SCHOOL
CHESTER



Welcome from the Head

THE ACADEMIC YEAR began with our returning Olympians being welcomed into School in a joyous day of celebration, and ends with more celebration of excellence as Prize Giving returns to the King's site in our marquee, which also hosted the celebration concert and KSPA Ball. In between there has been the crop of fantastic academic achievements we have grown so used to – Olympiad successes in Maths, Languages, Chemistry and Biology as well as Oxbridge and top university places amongst many other things – and in addition home-grown intellectual achievement aplenty. We have seen the publication of *The Archive, King's English*, recitals from Passion4Poetry, a stunning Design Exhibition... all these and more you will read about here.

In September we welcomed Richard Curtis as Head of Design Technology, Peter Wilcock as Head of Classics, Nick Dudderidge to the Design Technology Department and Rebecca Lindesay to the Modern Languages Department; in January our new Director of Music, Tim Harvey, joined us. All have very much made their mark, and will be well known already to students and parents.

This year we have organised King's Eye entirely around departments, allowing them to tell us about their highlights and giving us their own tributes to some of those who have been at the heart of our pursuit of excellence this year. Leaving from the staff are Beth Easton and Michael Willshire, both completing a year's teaching with us; at Christmas two fine colleagues also left King's: Miriam Wyatt, the founding Head of Enrichment and Philip

Robinson, Director of Music. Simon Egerton leaves to continue his successful hockey playing career abroad. Two of our talented Mathematicians are moving on this summer: James Ward, who came as a newly qualified teacher and now leaves to join his wife in Yorkshire and Steve Parry, one of the very best of colleagues, who moves to Llandaff Cathedral School after a year in New Zealand. His exchange partner, Henry Kersten, returns having made a great impression here. Two superb colleagues go on to become Heads of Departments in other schools: Hayley Brown to the Hammond School as Head of English and John Heap to Wirral Grammar School as Head of History and Politics. Judy Meredith, Biology teacher, former Head of Year and wonderful teacher and colleague, retires and will be greatly missed.

Finally, my Deputy Kathy Crewe-Read, moves on to Headship at Wolverhampton Grammar School. Anyone who follows her inexhaustible twitter feed will know of her enthusiasm for all the pupils do, and her encouragement of and joy in success in all guises. Fantastic fixer, thinker, organiser, teacher and colleague, and above all champion of the potential of pupils, she has set a hard act to follow for her successor.

So as ever we look back with thanks and joy, and look forward, again, to building further on everything we have done and are! I wish all readers a joyous summer.

Chris Lawson

Welcome



Richard Curtis



Nick Dudderidge



Beth Easton



Tim Harvey



Henry Kersten



Rebecca Lindesay



Peter Wilcock



Michael Willshire

Farewells



Kathy Crewe-Read



Hayley Brown



Beth Easton



Simon Egerton



John Heap



Henry Kersten



Judy Meredith



Steve Parry



Philip Robinson



James Ward



Michael Willshire



Miriam Wyatt

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Governor Changes

I was delighted and honoured to succeed David Hemsall as Chair in September. During the year we have continued to lead the way in independent education in the city and region, and our strategic plan for the coming years is equally exciting!

Dr Hemsall retired as a Governor when he stood down as Chairman, and leaving the Board also were two long-serving members: Martin Cooke, King's parent, former Chair of the Finance Committee and passionate advocate of music, sport and drama – the Vanbrugh Theatre was very much his project – and Jerry Tweddle, whose business acumen and expertise were hugely valued. At the end of this year Dr Chris Ray also leaves Manchester Grammar School and the UK... and therefore, sadly, our Board.

This has been a year of vigorous Governor recruitment though! Ian O'Doherty, Chief Executive of MBNA and Graham Ramsbottom, CEO of Wheatsheaf (the Grosvenor Estate's property business) joined the Board in June, and from September we will also welcome Professor Jonathan Billowes, Professor of Physics at the University of Manchester, Professor Hagan Bayley OKS, a Fellow of the Royal Society and Professor of Biochemistry at Oxford, and Mrs Susan Marks, Headmistress of Withington Girls' School. I hope all readers will enjoy this edition of King's Eye and agree that at every level – especially that which really counts, that of the pupils – our School's future is in the best of hands. ■

**Eleanor Johnson,
Chair of Governors**



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 Education.

Eleanor Johnson, Chair of Governors

Governors 2013



Stephen Cross



Bonner Davies



Katrina Kerr



Jo Clague



Neil Kirk



Michael Jessop



Ian O'Doherty



Graham Ramsbottom



Jane Phillipson



Kevin Hassett



Keith James



Andrew Storrar



Dr David Pawson



The Reverend Ian Thomas



The Very Reverend
Gordon McPhate



Dr Chris Ray



The Right Reverend
Peter Forster

Governor Farewells



David Hemsall



Jerry Tweddle



Martin Cooke

Academic Report

Public examinations have been in the news more than ever during the past twelve months but at King's we are ahead of the game, as we moved away from the "re-take culture" a while ago.

The 2012 King's leavers celebrated an excellent crop of results as expected, with over a fifth of students gaining the coveted A* grades at A Level and with 40% of Sixth Formers gaining A or A* grades in three A levels or more. GCSE statistics were equally pleasing with almost half of all students celebrating eight or more A* and A grades. The Fifth Year girls produced a particularly outstanding performance, achieving A* grades in 44% of all entries and a combined total of A* and A grades which was over 75%, completely dispelling the myth that girls perform better in single sex schools.

This year's leavers will be the last cohort nationally to go through the routine of January modules in the Sixth Form and future A level students will have to prepare themselves for

AS and A2 exams in May and June with just one opportunity to retake units the following summer. Whether Mr Gove will succeed in his desire to remove the AS hurdle completely, in favour of a two-year linear course, remains in doubt with universities arguing for the retention of Lower Sixth exams as an essential marker post for applications to higher education.

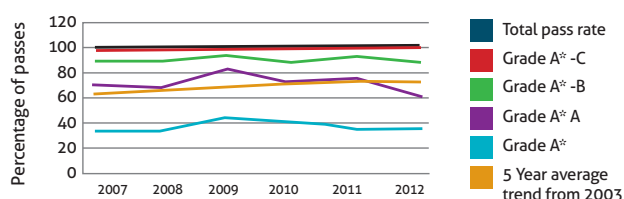
The future of the GCSE exam remains unclear. The current GCSE has already returned to a linear course and most agree that this was the right decision with the increase in teaching time brought about by the loss of modules surely leading to a better educational experience for all pupils. The International GCSE is becoming increasingly popular: it provides a more rigorous challenge that we believe is engaging and enjoyable for our students. King's will continue to assess each subject specification carefully and will retain GCSEs where they provide the right courses for our students.

Even in such a changeable world, the expectation is that public examinations where students complete written answers by hand will remain the norm for some time to come. Any developments in the use of technology must take account of this but we are well aware of the need for all pupils to be responsible and educated digital citizens able to adapt and think creatively in the modern world. Our "bring a browser" initiative to start in September is an important

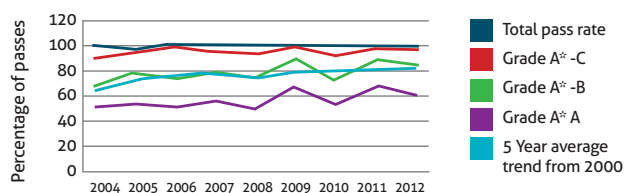
aspect of our eLearning programme and further developments will undoubtedly follow in future years.

Returning to this year's leavers, hopes as always are extremely high, particularly on the back of some outstanding AS level results last summer. Their totals of 56% A and 82% A&B grades were both records for King's by some distance and we wish them and all our senior students every success. ■

GCSE/IGCSE results



A level results



Pastoral Report

An aim for the year: fostering care and greater understanding between students.

Students are the life blood of the School and their energy and enthusiasm never ceases to surprise and delight. Be it the work of Sixth Form mentors, a Third Year presentation to Removes and the Junior School on Anti-bullying, Fourth Year helpers on taster days, the numerous successful inter-form competitions throughout the lower School or one of the daily acts of honesty, kindness and care.

First the bags racks began to disappear and now the lockers! Fortunately they are being replaced by bigger and better units, alongside improved seating and more drinking fountains. Such are the requests that come from the School Council and Year Group committees. A group of students interested in School catering have also shared ideas with

Mr Beasley, the catering manager, whilst sampling some of his baking.

Student working groups have played a vital role in reviewing the anti-bullying policy, the student planner (How long before we go electronic?) and student credits. The outcome for credits; less recognition for the individual, but a greater tutor group and year group emphasis and so a more corporate celebration.

Benevolence in action. Could this thinking provide the first step towards an invigorated House system?

A self-esteem and self-image workshop for Shells and Third Year students aimed to identify and highlight some of the pressures faced by all young people in modern society. Uniform changes for girls and make-up workshops for Fourth and Fifth Year girls built on this recognition for dialogue and pupil support.



Mutual support within the student body also continues to be a great strength with the Upper Sixth providing 'aunts' and 'uncles' for the Removes and the Lower Sixth providing subject mentors for a range of lower School pupils. The benevolence and maturity displayed by these senior students is always impressive. Indeed as Mrs Chadwick said on the final day for the Upper Sixth, "You [the students] provide a constant reminder of why we [teachers] work in education."

Pastoral care has never been more important or so worthwhile. ■

"We are incredibly grateful for the generous donation, please do pass our thanks onto everyone who helped raise the money; their support for our work to stop bullying is much appreciated. We are only able to continue our work because of supporters like you."

Anti-Bullying Alliance

Sixth Sense

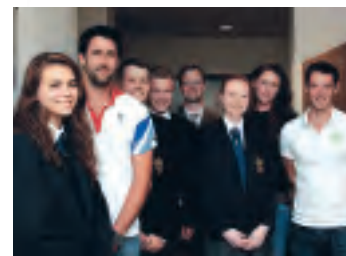


THE SIXTH FORM were welcomed into a new Sixth Form Centre following a considerable amount of redevelopment work over the summer creating better work and social space for the students to use. A new Head of School team (Kartik Upadhyay (U6JK) – Head of School, Will Marshall (U6JS) and Emily Moss (U6JS) – Deputy Heads of School) ensured that the new facilities were used to their best effect whilst working alongside the Head Prefect team to keep the cogs of the School turning.

University applications were completed in timely fashion and ultimately led to an average of over four offers (excluding medics and

vets) being made per student, with a third of the year group receiving all five offers, whilst there were a total of 11 offers made to prospective medical and veterinary candidates.

Outside of the academic arena there was huge success with Sixth Form led productions of *Dido and Aeneas* as well as *The History Boys* (both directed by students), entry and success for the first time in the Royal Society of Chemistry Young Analyst competition, Matthew Temple (U6KS) shortlisted for the National Science and Engineering Competition, regional finalists in the ifs student challenge not to mention fantastic participation in charity events including Children in Need and the Santa Dash. ■



Centre of Excellence

The School year arrived with a new Sixth Form Centre that, with significant planning contributions from the student body, offered a bigger, better and brighter Common Room, two Sixth Form only teaching rooms, new lockers, a multi-functional Sixth Form lecture theatre and more study space but, most importantly for the students, retained the ever important Sixth Form Cafe!

UNIVERSITY VISIT

In the depths of winter at 6am, a number of Lower Sixth souls braved the cold to visit Oxford and Cambridge for the day where they were given the opportunity to hear admissions presentations, speak to current students (including ex-King's Oxbridge undergraduates) and take the opportunity to see colleges and departments before making the difficult decision of light blue or dark blue.

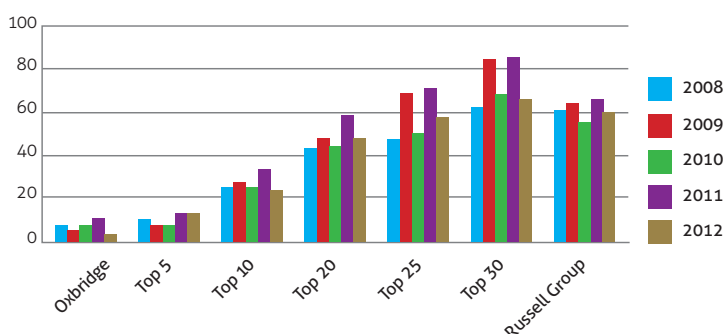
“A vibrant atmosphere with engaging staff and a bright, funny and warm student body – King's Sixth Form is something special.”

Meredith Benson (U6KS)

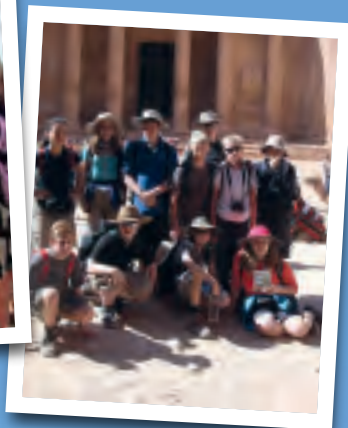


Above: Sixth Form Prefects.

PERCENTAGE OF PUPILS' DESTINATIONS TO "THE TIMES" TOP UNIVERSITIES



One exciting world. Two unforgettable personal expeditions...



Shells and Third Years: Madagascar and Jordan, 2012

THE FIRST EXPEDITION was to Madagascar in the summer holidays and we took two teams out to work with the local community of Ambohimandroso, where King's raised enough money several years ago, to build a new cyclone-proof primary school and water pump. Whilst there, we helped the locals build a bridge

over the river to improve access to the school and learnt about the local customs. We continued the expedition by paddling for five days down the Tsiribihina River in traditional wooden pirogues through an untouched and remote area of Madagascar accessible only by boat; a fantastic chance to see the local wildlife and camp out under the

stars at night time before heading to the famous Baobab Avenue to see the sunset.

The second expedition was to Jordan at October half term and we were able to visit the ancient site of Petra, camp out in the sandy Wadi Rum Desert as well

as visiting the beautiful nature reserve in Dona and a local school. Both countries were extraordinary places to visit and the expeditions were a wonderful experience that the students will never forget. ■



Team building in Shropshire

JUST BEFORE THE school year began, the new Removes headed off on a trip to Manor Adventure in Craven Arms, Shropshire for two days of outdoor activities and team-building. After a rather rainy summer holiday, the weather for the trip was perfect – not too hot but with lots of sunshine. On arrival at the centre, the Removes moved into their dormitories and began activities. Some of us enjoyed getting muddy on the obstacle courses while others liked the dark, cramped conditions of the underground maze. The best

team-building activity was crate-stacking and many enjoyed the thrill of abseiling and the high ropes course. For others, the best activities were those involving accuracy and skill such as archery and rifle shooting. Both pupils and teachers had lots of opportunities to get to know new people. We all returned from the trip with a great sense of achievement, with the Removes beginning life in Senior School very positively, making new friends, catching up with old friends, meeting teachers and having fun. ■

Ullswater: Summer 2012

THE THIRD YEAR undertook the annual outdoor pursuit course which consists of six days away in Ullswater at the Outward Bound Centre. During the week, students participated in a range of outdoor adventurous activities including rock climbing, canoeing, sailing and an expedition.

Although we try every year to book the best weather for the six days, the advent of torrential floods and lightning storms attempted to put a serious dampener on proceedings. In actuality, the disruption was minimal and for those on expedition in the mountains, it meant a rather pleasant trip on the famous Ullswater Steamer to get back to the centre.

The aim of the course is to develop team work, leadership and improve group dynamics in an outdoor setting. Students keep a reflective log on their experiences which is produced of an evening over hot chocolate and biscuits.

One of the real highlights for students is the "Globotech" activity which combines business ideas with orienteering and raft building. Pupils benefit greatly from the week away and it is always quoted as one of the highlights when leavers are asked about School memories. This year's course was certainly no different in that regard.



Let's talk numb3rs



Inside the Classroom...

AS EVER, celebrating and developing the pupils' problem solving abilities comes first in the Maths Department and there has been much to celebrate inside the classrooms. We had more pupils learning Maths than ever before and enjoying great successes.

Maths Idol returned as a School-wide activity in the summer term with candidates proposed by Barnaby Rule (3JJ), Kartik Upadhyay (U6JK), Vicky Seddon (U6BH), Matthew Temple (U6KS), Mr Ward, Mr Kersten and

Mr Shepherd. The debate over which Mathematician (Al-Khwarizmi, Aryabhata, Hardy, Mandelbrot, Perelman, Ramanujan, and Wiles) raged through the summer term so you'll have to come and see the Maths corridor next year to find out who was voted the winner by King's pupils!

In Removes Maths Enrichment week, we had the customary variety of activities from Junior Stock Market, to The Maths of Doughnuts and 'Rock-Paper-Scissors-Lizard-Spock'!

"Studying Mathematics at King's is an unbeatable combination of learning from enthusiastic, passionate teachers and intellectually challenging yourself in new ways."

Matthew Temple Maths Prefect



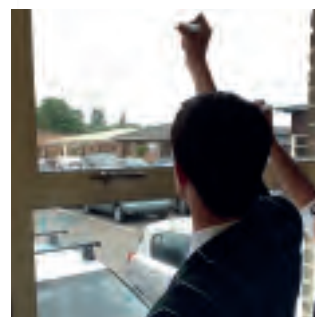
13.1%

of all lessons at King's this year were Maths lessons and Kings' pupils enjoyed great successes.

95%

of all Upper Sixth Mathematicians achieved a grade A*-B last summer.

Also in the equation...



THE WRITING'S ON THE... WINDOW!

We are happy to propagate the weird idea from films that Maths looks cooler when you do it on windows.



SPACE CUBE IS ANYTHING BUT SQUARE

Upper Sixth Further Maths group built a 3D Possibility Space Cube showing all combinations of totals for 'Grime Dice': an unusual set of dice with non-transitive properties.



TOP OF THEIR TREE

One of the Third Year classes constructed a Fractal Christmas Tree this year. Now how many branches would that have?



We love Maths

Join our 460 followers on Twitter...

@KSCMaths

and we'll show you why!



"King's has dedicated mathematicians who forward the understanding of maths well beyond the classroom."

Mr Kersten

Returning to New Zealand after his year's exchange with us

...and outside the Classroom

THE MICHAELMAS Sixth Form evening lectures drew regular weekly audiences of at least 40 pupils. This year's guest speakers included renowned Mathematician Rob Eastaway (Old King's Scholar) who spoke on the 'Maths of Sport' whilst James Grime brought an Enigma machine for us to wonder at. Mr Ward, Miss Bannaghan and Mr Shepherd explored the Mathematical details of Finance, Biology and Randomness

respectively. The programme and visiting guests for our lectures next term promise to be just as exciting!

King's has enjoyed more success in various UK Mathematics Trust National Challenges. At the Senior level we had 84 pupils from Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth Form taking the paper. Over 65% received a certificate, with a total of eight Gold, 23 Silver and 24 Bronze. The top five pupils were selected to compete in further rounds of the

challenge and Matthew Temple (U6KS) received a certificate of distinction for his British Mathematical Olympiad paper. At the Intermediate level we entered 110 pupils from Third, Fourth and Fifth Years and over two thirds of our pupils received a certificate; 14 Gold, 30 Silver and 30 Bronze and of these six pupils qualified for subsequent rounds. 110 pupils from Removes and Shells competed at the Junior level with an impressive

72% receiving certificates; 16 Gold, 40 Silver and 23 Bronze. Two pupils, Owen Edwards (ShPS) and Jonathan Ralphs (ShHL), qualified for the Junior Mathematical Olympiad. King's have also enjoyed the UKMT Team Maths Challenges where the Intermediate Team came second in the regional heat in Ellesmere Port, taking them to the regional final in Manchester, where they finished in third place. ■

Jammy winners



Winner of our Sixth Form mini lectures (and the coveted jar of Luxury Jam that went with the prestigious title) was Ben Hastings (U6JK), who spoke on the Maths of the Rubik's Cube.



We bid farewell to Mr Parry, Mr Ward, Mr Kersten and Mrs Crewe-Read. Mathematical Giants all.

King's PAP Presents...

POETRY
HEART

So a ballet, in which not a single word is spoken, might not seem the obvious destination for an English Department outing, but, in fact, the Michaelmas Term trip to see Matthew Bourne's *Sleeping Beauty* (with vampires!) proved an outstanding success for staff and students of all ages...



Celebrate The King's



THIS YEAR HAS CERTAINLY seen a variety of theatre trips to plays ancient and modern at local theatres in Manchester, Liverpool and our old friend, Clwyd Theatr Cymru, as well as further afield at Shakespeare's Globe.

Meanwhile, under the direction of Mrs Lydon, Passion4Poetry continues to thrive, with a brilliant series of readings to mark National Poetry Day and the national Poetry by Heart competition, which resulted in a fabulous soundscape.

Creative writing continues to thrive under the guidance of Miss Brown and Mr Aldridge. Mrs Hearne has pioneered the use of the iPad in lessons and Miss Easton has worked with the heroic team of Fifth Year students who run the Lower School

Drama Club. Mr Wheeler has kept Dr McMahon on the straight and narrow, whilst she has directed *The Crucible* and supported student-directed productions of *The History Boys* and *Dido and Aeneas*, alongside some work with the recently-established termly magazine *King's English*, which has flourished under the assured direction of Upper Sixth English Language and Literature student Chris Robson (U6NS). So do we ever find time to teach anything? Well, excellent results (A*-B but mostly A*-A) at both GCSE and A

level would suggest that we do! Gareth Roberts (U6SD) has an offer from King's College, London, and Chris Robson from Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, both for



English Literature, whilst A level English Language student Emily Moss (U6JS) has been offered a place to pursue a course in Linguistics at Edinburgh University. Mrs Lydon has supervised an outstanding Extended Project (a demanding post-A level qualification) on dystopic fiction by Chris Robson, whilst Dr McMahon has supervised an equally outstanding – but radically different – EP by Gareth Roberts, based on his production of *Dido and Aeneas*.

All in all, a year of 'very palpable hits' – as Shakespeare might have put it! ■

The English Department will be saying a sad goodbye to Miss Brown this summer, as she leaves King's to take up a new post as Head of English at The Hammond School.

"I'm so glad I came to King's for the Sixth Form, and studying English has been a joy."

Sophie Thomson (U6KS)

And another word...

A PRIZE PLACE

Upper Sixth student of both English Literature and English Language Chris Robson has been offered a place to read English at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, from September 2013.

N.Y.T. WELCOMES GARETH

The department was delighted by the success of A level English Literature student Gareth Roberts in his application to join the National Youth Theatre's 'Epic Stages' project over the summer, a project which will lead to full membership of the National Youth Theatre.

IN GOOD COMPANY

Emily Moss plans to follow in the footsteps of Miranda Harle (leaver 2012) by reading Linguistics at Edinburgh University.

MAKING OUR VOICES HEARD

National Poetry Day (4th October, 2012) was chosen as the highly appropriate launch date for *Young Voices*, an anthology of poems written by King's School students, a copy of which was presented to the celebrated poet Simon Armitage, when four of our students attended a poetry workshop with him at Chester Town Hall.

Geography Department is firmly on the map



THE GEOGRAPHY Department started the academic year with a very good set of A level and GCSE level results. A number of students gained places to read Geography or environmentally related courses at university, including University College,



London (UCL), Durham and Leeds universities. It is pleasing to see the numbers choosing environmentally based courses from King's increasing in recent years.

The Open Morning display held in October always attracts a great deal of interest and it was no exception this year with a large number of both students and parents testing their knowledge on the flag identification game. This followed logically from the Olympic theme of the previous year. The main residential field trip for the Lower Sixth AS level group took place in February to a very bracing Colomendy in North Wales. Here the Lower Sixth spent time studying and measuring the River Alyn in detail, and not to leave the human geographers disappointed, there was a whole day's work in Liverpool concentrating on urban social changes and regeneration. The Lower School continues to enjoy exciting and enjoyable geography lessons with awards being made on a termly basis for Geog Squad Skipper for most inspiring geographer in a particular year group.

The whole School, including non geographers, have been treated on a regular basis to 'Where in the World' competitions which have proved very popular and winners rewarded with small prizes.

Geography continues to be a subject that involves the whole School community and is indeed going places. ■

"Geography explains the past, illuminates the present and prepares us for the future. What could be more important than that?"

Michael Palin 2007

Also on the landscape...

ENRICHING EXTENSION

During Friday Enrichment periods, Geography University Extension classes have been provided for both Upper and the Lower Sixth. They have provided a forum whereby potential university Geography students have been able to study a variety of geographical and environmental issues and discuss these in seminar groups.

LUNCHTIME DEBATE

The Geography Society continues to thrive, holding meetings at lunchtimes for the whole School community. Some of the topics discussed this year have been discussions between students and staff on topics as diverse as Obama's Green Policies to International Women's Day.



Pastperfect

WE ARE VERY PROUD of the achievements of our History and Politics Department pupils. Academic success is undoubtedly important, but what gives us particular pride, pleasure and enjoyment is the commitment shown by so many of our pupils within and outside of lessons. In the last two years, over 50 pupils have given talks at the weekly History club, 'Past Masters' and we have welcomed some committed Junior 4s, armed with note-books, to several meetings.

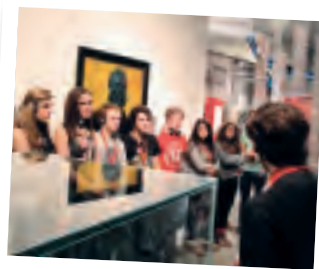
Many pupils have written with great flair and originality for the student-run History magazine, *The Archive*. 'Isms' and 'Culture' are two Politics clubs which have allowed both students and staff to lead sessions on their own particular areas of interest and expertise.

Trips are an institution of the Department. Last October 25 A level historians came on a study trip to Berlin and 60 students from Shells to Upper Sixth will be on the over-subscribed battlefields trip to the Western Front this October.

Planning for the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the First World War is now well underway. Lower and Upper Sixth Government and Politics students visited Parliament and The Supreme Court last March and Sixth Formers in both subjects regularly attend lectures given by visiting academics including Professor Eric Evans (pictured above). Seven Upper Sixth students have received offers to study History or Politics at University including Sophie Thomson (U6KS) with an offer from Cambridge. ■

"History is past politics, and politics present history."

Sir John Robert Seeley
English historian, essayist and scholar, quoting E.A. Freeman



A VISIT TO A CITY STEEPED IN HISTORY

24 A level History students, three members of staff and our guides Mr Patrick Gale and Colonel Storie-Pugh OBE spent four packed days over October half-term in Berlin. We crammed twelve separate visits into the time available including visits to the Reichstag, the Jewish Museum and the imposing Russian WW2 memorial at Treptower Park.

Berlin will always remain a magnet for historians.



MP's question time

A growing number of Lower Sixth History and Government and Politics students are studying both subjects and Mrs Chadwick's two lunchtime societies, 'Isms' and 'Culture Club', have gone from strength to strength.

We were very pleased to greet Chester MP, Stephen Mosley for a question and answer session and welcome back his parliamentary researcher OKS Tom Bradley. Mr Mosley also met up with King's politicians on a study trip to Westminster.

Take a delve into The Archive



Josh Smith (U6JS) and Sophie Thomson (U6KS) have been the inspiration and editorial team behind the first two issues of *The Archive*. Remove to Upper Sixth pupils have written about a diverse range of historical and political issues, from Roman feasting to the sovereignty of the Falklands. Josh and Sophie have now passed on the baton to a talented group of Lower Sixth. Look out for the next issue...



Entrepreneurship: just the business

FROM SHELLS to Upper Sixth, innovation, invention and creativity have abounded this year. GCSE students enjoyed an inspirational trip to Entrepreneurs LIVE to hear from four highly successful entrepreneurs and to participate in the North West finals of the Student Enterprise Challenge.

Two of our teams, *Jooici* and *Superfruit*, were amongst the region's finalists and pitched their idea for an innovative product for the teenage healthy living market. The judges were impressed with *Jooici*'s 30 second video advert and pitch and announced them triumphant winners. Team

members Zoe Rigby (4ET), Isabel Dawson (4ET), Sophie Drew (4PN), Harry Strudwick (4EH) and Natalie Tomlinson (4PN) shared the £100 cash prize and the opportunity to meet with Fraser Doherty, founder of SuperJam.

The National Enterprise Challenge roadshow came to King's in May and took the Shells out of their comfort zone. In teams, the whole year group was challenged to think laterally and creatively to come up with an idea for a social enterprise. The Vanbrugh Theatre buzzed with excitement and purpose as teams researched product, price, place and promotion in advance of the

final presentations. Oliver Williams (ShHL), James Paterson (ShAI), Lucy Emsden (ShHL), Thomas Ardron (ShRC), Annie Powell (ShRC) and Roberto King (ShAI) won the day (and what a day it was!) with LitterAlleyArt, a business model based around the recycling of consumer waste by up and coming artists into commercially attractive pieces of art.

LitterAlleyArt went on to represent the School at the National Final in London in July, competing against 100 schools from across the UK, and pitch their idea to the biggest names and sharpest brains in British business, including Lord Sugar. ■



Inset Above:
Entrepreneurs Live.

Far left:
Student Enterprise Challenge.

Left:
Student Investor Challenge.

More facts & figures...

ACADEMIC SUCCESS FLOURISHES

A level Economics results the best ever at 70% grades A* - A. Good Schools' Guide Award for best GCSE Business Studies and Economics results for the fifth time in four years. University Extension classes throughout the year with thoughtful discussion and reflection on issues beyond the curriculum and Mark Brownson's (U6 KS) insightful Extended Project on the regulation of global capital markets was an outstanding piece of research.



COMPETITION THRIVES

"Pat the hat and friends" – Patrick Hanratty (U6BH), Freddy Green (U6SD), Oliver Crowe (U6JK) and George Middlehurst (U6NH) – competed against 40,000 students across the UK in the ifs Student Investor Challenge making £20,000 trading in virtual shares in just three months, outperforming the FTSE100. Ranked 18th in the North Wales and English Midlands, they progressed to the regional final.

"Economics is about the world around us; it's current; it's about the modern world; it's about how we behave, how businesses behave and how the government behaves."

James McCullagh
BBC Young Apprentice

STUDENT PARTICIPATION GROWS

The EcBSt Blogsite, run by a team of 16 committed students, attracts news blogs and book reviews from stalwarts such as Kartik Upadhyay (U6JK) and Sam Narici (U6SD); Will Jackson (L6SW) and Ben Pickering (L6SW) set up the BusEcSoc, inviting in speakers from business and academia; and Mark Brownson (U6KS) and Bertie Walker (U6JK) designed and delivered an Enrichment Course all about Stocks and Shares.



Always the right formula for success



“Chemistry has been very rewarding this year, with both interesting theory and engaging practicals.”

Esme Norman (L6JR) and Oscar Lloyd Williams (L6AM)

The Chemistry Department has gone from strength-to-strength...

Removes – Third Year: Our course has been completely redesigned in-house and is proving very popular. The course retains the best features of the national curriculum, whilst also exploring chemistry beyond its confines.

GCSE/IGCSE: Our results are excellent, with greater than 95% of students achieving grade B or better, and with half of our students being awarded A*. The current Fifth Year is our first group to have completed the IGCSE course. The greater intellectual demands, coupled with our excellent results at A level, have led to a record number of students choosing to study with us in the Sixth Form.

A level: We once again achieved excellent results, with more than 85% of our students gaining grade B or better and with well over half of our students obtaining an A or A*.

Clubs: We are now providing more opportunities than ever before for students to stretch themselves beyond the confines of the taught specifications, with Chemistry Clubs in the lower years and Sixth Form, Extension Chemistry lessons, Enrichment sessions for the Lower School and Organic Enrichment for Fourth Year to Lower Sixth Form, as well as trips to events like Science Live in Manchester to hear talks from some of the most well-known scientists in the country. In addition, there are competitions such as Salter's, the RSC Young Analysts and the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge.

Support: We pride ourselves in helping students obtain the best grades of which they are capable. To this end we provide various revision sessions for external exams and make sure we are always there for our students. ■



Analyse this...

We entered a team for the first time into the RSC Young Analysts Competition and were delighted to finish second out of 30 schools. This event afforded students the opportunity to work both as part of a team and as individuals in some very demanding tasks in a multimillion pound research facility at Liverpool University.

Further analysis...



CAMBRIDGE CHEMISTRY CHALLENGE

Once again our students did very well in this competition, with a number receiving marks placing them in the top few percent in the country. Matthew Temple (U6KS) was comfortably in the top ten and as a result he attended a residential course at Cambridge University and an awards ceremony at the Royal Institution in London.



AN ENRICHING EXPERIENCE

The department is now providing enrichment chemistry sessions to all year groups, from Salter's Chemistry sessions for students in the lower years, in which they get to try out some exciting experiments, to some challenging and enjoyable Organic Enrichment sessions for older students, in which they are able to synthesise and analyse some common commercial products.





Biodiversity!

THIS YEAR WE HAVE been fortunate to host Dr Andreas Prokop from the University of Manchester. He brought with him about 1000 helpers in the form of fruit flies or *Drosophila melanogaster*. About 75% of human disease genes have a recognisable match in this tiny insect. Indeed, *Drosophila* suffer the same consequences as humans when it comes to drinking too much alcohol and coffee; they even suffer jet lag!

Andreas was kind enough to set up workshops with the Upper Sixth Biology students and give a seminar on his research. Students watched *Drosophila* learning their right from their left, going to sleep

when they became too hot and fighting over a food source. Given they also become grandparents in only two weeks it's no wonder six Nobel laureates are behind this rather humble fly.

Enrichment continues to excite and inspire students through the 'Young Biologist' and 'Biodiversity' Clubs. Whether it's dissecting growing organic vegetables, monitoring wildlife or dodging the tarantula when the Snake Man visits, this year has certainly lived up to expectations. However, behind the scenes much work is going on to run two new activities.

Students considering a future in medicine will no doubt be interested in our 'Drugs and Disease' Enrichment option involving lots of microbiological techniques. Furthermore, 'Sheila

and Bruce' have now arrived in the department all the way from the Australian outback. These bearded dragons will need to be looked after by a 'Removes Only' Animal Club, so get ready new Removes 2013! ■

"I had no idea that flies could be used to study asthma."

Lottie Carr (L6HF)



From left:
Drosophila lecture
The Snake Man visit
Young biologists race their maggots
Archie shows he has a head for biology



Under the microscope...

A MORAL DEBATE

In January, a series of stem cell workshops run by a group of postgraduate students from the Faculty of Life Sciences at the University of Manchester enabled Lower Sixth Biologists to consider the ethical, moral and religious implications of this research. Various activities and debates informed students about this contentious area of science.

OUR BIOLOGY OLYMPIANS



This year 14 of King's Biologists were entered in the British Biology Olympiad. Competing against 4200 students nationally their achievements included four Bronze and two Gold medals. Well done to Jeremy Telford (U6NS) who had one of the highest scores and went through to the second round. Only 3% of students entered this year achieved this accolade.

...A HORSE. A HORSE. MY KINGDOM FOR A HORSE

The horsemeat saga and the confirmation of the remains of Richard III prompted Biologists to perform Genetic Fingerprinting. A scenario was set up whereby a 'Sixth Former had stolen the answers to a Biology test'. Leaving DNA at the scene of the crime, students were able to elucidate the culprit from his unique fingerprint. Another first for the department!



King's students reach for the stars



WITH THE SCHOOL year starting in the year of the Olympics, we took plenty of opportunities to encourage the students to participate in Olympic style events. We entered a Shells' team for the first time in the Physics Olympics at York, as well as the regular Physics Olympics at Liverpool University for the Sixth Form. The Shells' team came a very fine fourth overall and the Upper Sixth team were second in the theoretical section. In a more academic focus, the various Olympiads were entered by record numbers in all years. Silver medals were achieved by many Fifth Year students, and Pete Boothroyd (L6SB) with Sean Telford (U6NS) and Matthew Temple (U6KS) were awarded gold medals in their respective competitions. Matthew was invited to enter a challenging second paper, for which he was commended for his excellent solutions.

We have been able to use Enrichment to provide opportunities to develop and motivate the students in areas of Physics beyond the usual teaching.

"Who needs fun, when you have Physics?"

Lower Sixth student

Astronomy is always popular and looks at a great many astronomical aspects using different resources, especially IT. The trip to Jodrell Bank is a particular highlight. In Electronics, the students have studied some electronic theory as well as developing their soldering and circuit designing skills. Using a wide variety of components, projects made have included temperature alarms, as well as the ever popular Flashing Christmas Tree. Engineering has seen activities such as the scientific principles behind design and building of bridges, towers and fairground rides using a variety of materials. We hope that the students may be inspired to pursue these activities further. ■



Extra data...

JOIN THE CLUB



Physics Club has taken off this year, thanks to the work of Henry Thompson (L6HF) and his team. Each week a member of the Sixth Form chooses a famous physicist, or a topic of physics which interests them, and then gives a presentation to the rest of the group with questions and answers. Topics so far have ranged from Michael Faraday to dark matter.

GET A HEADSTART

We encourage the Sixth Form to look for opportunities outside of School to help them inform their future careers. Several of the Lower Sixth physicists have taken the opportunity to enrol on Headstart courses, which provide a few days of intense (and fun) work at various Universities around the country. The feedback from these is always excellent, and congratulations to those who have been selected.



Where great minds collide



December saw the Upper Sixth return to visit CERN. This was a particularly exciting time, with the imminent announcement of the discovery of the Higgs Boson. The students had tours and lectures in this unique international laboratory and spoke to many of the researchers in front line science. This trip wouldn't be complete without a trip to the pizzeria and the customary fondue.



It's all Greek to me!

THE LANGUAGE of Homer, Sophocles and the New Testament lives on at King's with Ancient Greek an option in Enrichment. Having mastered the Greek alphabet, the ten mixed age students have found progress to be rapid in even one lesson a fortnight. It was a bit of a shock to discover that the Greeks have 24 words for "the" but they are now

reading about the 300 Spartans, the Cyclops and the Aesop's fables in their original language. Greek has many useful links to other languages but the highlight of the year had to be the Greek balloon debate in which we narrowly voted to save Leonidas, the Spartan King and ditch Plato, the philosopher. ■

"I have particularly enjoyed the incredibly entertaining plot line in the Cambridge Latin Course."

Fourth Year pupil

Above: Best dressed Roman Competition

More to think about...

In February, Duncan Ritchie (L6ER) and Mrs Gareth attended a Classics Study day in Manchester. They met other Sixth Formers studying the same areas and heard talks on Cicero and Ovid by leading national experts.

READ LIKE A ROMAN

The King's Removes learn that Latin is very much alive in our annual Latin speaking competition. Working in teams they prepare a Latin language role play for delivery in the Vanbrugh Theatre where pronunciation, accuracy and presentation are the key to victory.

TWEETING THE CLASSICS



As the new Head of Classics at King's, I already had an inkling of the strong and enthusiastic classical tradition in the School before I arrived (Classics achieved 100% A* to B at GCSE). However, it was still a surprise to be asked by students on my first day when I would be sending the first Classics Tweets! Latin and Classical Civilisation are certainly subjects which combine the best of past and present at King's. This year, for example, Robin Lee (RmJW) and Lottie Cousins (ShAI) won our best dressed Roman competition while Max Lawson (L6HF) and Harry Hollingsworth (L6HF), who are studying Fifth Century Athens and Homer's Odyssey started their own Classics Club for the lower years. Meanwhile, our Ancient Mystery object competition has drawn entries from classicist and non classicist alike with notable winners including Kingsley Roden (ShML) who correctly identified a Roman oil lamp and Amelia Standing (ShPS) who recognised the Emperor Hadrian behind a Father Christmas costume.





Leipzig, a fascinating exchange of history and culture

WE HAVE A LONG tradition of organising foreign visits and pupil exchanges, enabling our pupils to immerse themselves in the language and culture of a French, German or Spanish-speaking country. This year ten pupils from the Fourth Year, Fifth Year and Sixth Form took part in an exchange visit to Leipzig, a city steeped in history and culture. The eminent writer Goethe was a student here and the city has a rich musical heritage, counting both J.S. Bach and Mendelssohn among its former residents. The city also became famous in Germany's recent history when demonstrators in Leipzig initiated the so-called peaceful revolution, which led to the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. Highlights of the visit included a day-trip to Berlin and a "Battle of the Bands" concert, which, in the words of one of our pupils, was "epic!" In School, too, pupils have been

seizing opportunities to take their learning beyond the classroom. In November four Upper Sixth linguists showed off their debating skills in Spanish and French by taking part in the sixth annual Northern Schools' MFL Debating Competition. Charlotte Gurran (U6SD) and Mike Barcroft (U6BH) debated in French, and Matt Spencer (U6JS) and Oliver Green (U6JS) in Spanish. They had to prepare themselves to debate either for or against five motions, ranging from 'Freedom of speech has gone too far' to 'A bike is better than a wheel barrow'. The Spanish team reached the final and found themselves defending the unprepared motion 'I speak English and that's enough' – a point of view that didn't come easily to such committed and accomplished linguists!

Bulgarian, Dutch, Bengali and Phoenician were among the unfamiliar languages that some of

Deutscher Film

In October, our Sixth Form Germanists attended a German study day at the Cornerhouse in Manchester. This interactive study session allowed students to gain an insight into the former German Democratic Republic. Using Christian Petzold's *Barbara* as a focus film. The students were introduced to politics and life in the GDR, which is particularly relevant for the cultural aspect of the A2 examination.

"Of all the things I learned in School, without doubt Spanish has had the biggest impact on my life, both professionally and personally."

"I've worked for the BBC in Madrid, travelled Latin America and am currently packing my bags for Miami to continue my consulting career in the Spanish-speaking world. More importantly than the professional benefits though, I've met some great new people, many of whom will be friends for life."

Oliver Greening OKS

our Sixth Formers grappled with when they took part in the 2012 Linguistics Olympiad. They used their linguistic experience and sense of logic to spot patterns and

make connections in order to solve a sequence of tantalising puzzles. Several certificates were awarded for strong performances at Higher level. ■



Above: King's Northern Schools' Debating Team.

Enriching with language



As part of the School's Enrichment Programme half a dozen Sixth Formers have been sitting on the other side of the teacher's desk and helping to deliver French lessons to Y3 and Y4 children at a local primary



school. They developed a good rapport with the children and enjoyed using a variety of games, songs and other activities to support the work of the class teacher.



From Terrorist to Baptist Pastor, a compelling story...

IN MARCH, Fifth Year students attended a Christian Controversies Conference at Chester Cathedral. The charismatic Dr. Robert Beckford, a black theologian with considerable experience as a TV presenter, gave an excellent keynote address on 'The biblical roots of racism'. His thorough exegesis on passages from Genesis provided clear insights into the damage which has been caused over the centuries by narrow interpretations of biblical texts.

For many students the highlight of the day was the presentation given by the Rev. Billy McCurrie about his journey from terrorist to Baptist Pastor. Billy joined the Ulster Volunteer Force at the age of 16, four years after his father had been assassinated by a member of the IRA. His involvement in terrorism ultimately resulted in him committing murder and he recalled the sense of pride he felt at having proved himself within the organisation. He was convicted of his crimes and sent to the Maze Prison in Northern Ireland where he later experienced a dramatic conversion to Christianity.

The conference concluded with a lively question and answer session with representatives from different Christian denominations fielding taxing enquiries on a range of subjects, including perennial issues such as homosexuality, abortion and life after death. Although generally good natured and often humorous, the responses which

these questions elicited revealed fundamental differences between the liberal and conservative traditions.

This was a tremendous learning experience which highlighted the variety of opinions and beliefs that are so dearly held by members of one religious community. ■



Above: Christian Controversies Conference.

Philosophy news:

A NEW PHILOSOPHER

Ms J Rutberg joined the department in January and has a particular fondness for Philosophy of Mind, Metaphysics and Political Philosophy. Since her arrival she has revitalised the Duns Scotus Society (Removes to Fourth Year pupils) who have engaged in fascinating lunchtime discussions, including 'Is it better to be feared or loved?' and 'Are rights given by nature, or by the government?'

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations go to Philosophy student Nia Hughes (L6JR) for her independent work on Plato's Theory of Forms. Nia entered Fitzwilliam College's Ancient World essay competition and was highly commended for her endeavours. She visited Cambridge for an open day and to collect her prize in April.

EXAM SUCCESS

The Class of 2012 gained the best A level Philosophy results the department have ever had with 73% A*/A ; six Upper Sixth leavers have gone on to study Philosophy or Theology at university. Success continues in younger years; AS results in both RS and Philosophy were 100% A/B and 5th Year GCSE candidates gained 87% A*/A, the highest in the School.

"The human faculties of perception, judgement, discriminative feeling, mental activity, and even moral preference are exercised only in making a choice."

J.S. Mill On Liberty





Left: Removes DT lesson.
Above: Design Technology exhibition.

Risk taking for great results

WHETHER IT IS AN OLDER School pupil gaining recognition from industry, or a Remove group creating innovative concepts from nothing more than paper and card, Design and Technology has at its heart creativity, innovation and a thirst for knowledge of new technologies and materials. Despite changes in staff this year, the department has continued to hold these principles at its core and benefits daily from seeing new concepts created, developed and tested, in an environment where risk taking is held in the highest regard.

CAD/CAM in the Department has continued to develop. As well as the host of new opportunities made available through 3D printing, iPads in the department have allowed pupils to realise ideas in virtual reality contexts for the first time. This, along with the continued impact of the fused glass technology and a new sublimation printer, are allowing pupils to create products that are increasingly relevant and appropriate to the real world.



Above: Lexi Garnett and Charlotte Gurrin.

Fifth Year and Sixth Form students have had continued success in the Arkwright Scholarship and in securing excellent university places. However, design is best experienced when working on 'live' projects with real clients. The Quinn Glass Design Award will give pupils the chance to showcase their talent against others for tangible reward, learning that design is never an insular activity, but rather, the process of understanding and responding to the needs of other people. It is hoped that students throughout the School will gain opportunities to do this as the department develops more industrial partners. ■

"It is a great privilege to work alongside such talented and creative individuals each day in this department."

Richard Curtis
Head of Design and Technology

Also on the drawing board...



ARKWRIGHT SCHOLARS

The department has continued its involvement with Arkwright Scholarship this year, an opportunity for pupils to show their talent for design and engineering in order to gain industrial sponsorship. Alistair Coley (L6SW) and Peter Boothroyd (L6SB) were awarded their scholarships, whilst Owen Haylock (5FV) and Holly Jebb (5AC) took the Arkwright exam, with Owen going on to interview at Loughborough University.

QUINN GLASS

As a result of a School trip to local glass manufacturing company Quinn Glass, Sixth Form students were given the opportunity to design new signage for the entry to the plant near Elton. Peter Boothroyd won the competition and in the process became the first winner of the Quinn Glass Design Award, Harry Jones (L6PW) and Charlotte Lowe (L6ER) came second and third respectively.

University Success

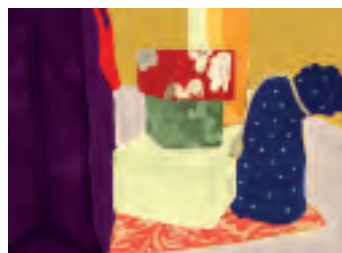
University success has continued with all nine students in the Upper Sixth leaving us to follow Design and Engineering courses. Students have been accepted at Central Saint Martins and Loughborough University for Product Design as well as Oxford Brookes and a number of other institutions to study Engineering, Art Foundation courses and Architecture. We wish all of our leavers well for the future.



Making our mark



THIS YEAR in the Art Department students in all year groups have been getting to grips with working on iPads as well as the usual array of materials. Some interesting work has been made as students have adjusted their methods of observation to suit this exciting new media. As well as using the Brushes app, favoured by David Hockney, some students have been producing some terrific animation and film work in iMovie, too. ■



Venetian treasures



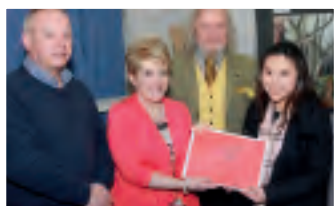
Members of the Fifth Year, Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth art sets spent a glorious and memorable week in Venice soaking up the sun, the art, the architecture as well as the atmosphere. There was plenty of opportunity for students to sit and sketch in the piazzas, study paintings and sculptures in the galleries and take in the treasures of the Venetian Republic in the palaces and museums.

Competing at the edge



We had three finalists in the 'Living Edge' magazine competition, Charlotte Gurran (U6SD) Charlotte Knight (4DR) and Cherie Wong (L6SW). Charlotte

Knight was highly commended in the U14 section and Cherie won first prize in the U16 category.



Also in the frame...



BRIGHT FUTURES

62% of this year's Upper Sixth Art set are going on to study art or architecture at university. Charlie Corciulo (U6SD) is off to study architecture, Lexi Garnett (U6SD) and Polly Morris (U6JK) will both study product and 3D design and Katie Longson (U6CC) and Charlotte Gurran (U6SD) will both go on to study Fine Art.

"Our favourite thing about art is that we are given a task, shown how to do it, and then we can go and create our own work, building our own ideas too."

William Unett (Rm LP) and Adam Bayley (Rm LP)



ART ONLINE

The department continues to develop its website as an online resource and student gallery, as well using its Twitter feed to communicate with the School community.

The future for Computer Science Programmers

The GCSE exam brief was to develop a game that encouraged people to live a healthy lifestyle

Alex McDonagh's (5CG) 'Steel Jutsu' is set in a dystopian future where fast food chains control the world's population by inserting mind controlling chemicals into food. The Ninja clan are the only people who don't eat fast food and so try to liberate humanity from their enslavement.



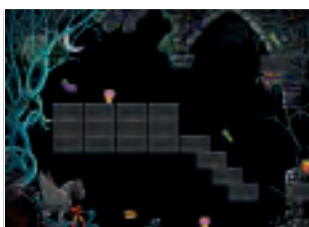
News bytes

Software developed by A level students



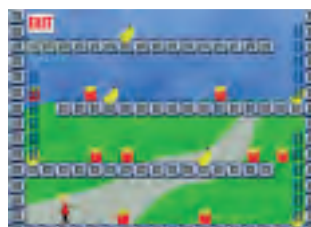
MIND PALACE

Nathan Addison (U6KS) developed a prototype software security system called "LOCI". It was based on the 'mind palace' concept, whereby the user of a computer is authenticated by correctly identifying the placement of artifacts in a room. The LOCI system allows users to build a number of rooms and has varying security levels based upon the accuracy of the user's responses.



Hospital Rush

James Pym's (5CG) hero in 'Hospital Rush' is the Doctor, who must escape each ward room collecting as much healthy food as possible and avoiding unhealthy food. The Doctor must also survive against the monsters that exist on the nightmarish wards!



Dorris the Dinner Lady

Robert Cartwright's (5FV) 'Dorris the Dinner Lady' is on a mission to destroy unhealthy foods by going straight to the source of the problem. On her way she collects healthy foods to boost her score and retain her title as the ultimate fat fighting dinner lady! Her battle concludes with a fight against a surprisingly recognizable clown.



Fat Boy Not Slim

Scott Griffiths' (5AC) 'Fat Boy Not Slim' is a futuristic game set in a world being overrun by unhealthy food. Slim's quest is to find and destroy the source of the unhealthy food, while collecting healthy food along the way. Slim's adventure culminates in a final space battle against Colonel Sanders.



TEACHING AID

Ronan Kumar (U6CC) developed a teaching aid to help students understand the inner workings of a computer's processor. Ronan's interactive user interface included animations of the machine code programs actually running.



Harmful Park

Chris Bunting's (5CG) character Dan decided that it was time to improve his health, but his journey takes him through the dangers of his local 'Harmful Park'. To be successful he must conquer pits of dangerous spikes and ravenous dogs, collecting healthy food on the way.

"Students at King's have for the last 15 years benefitted from learning how to write computer programs. New technologies have proven the economic possibilities of programming and our students are perfectly positioned to be at the vanguard of the new world!"

David Lavender,
Head of Information Technology

Simply a-mazing

Enrichment groups developed maze puzzles to introduce the ideas of computer animation and programming. Below left: Anna Lloyd (ShML) Below right: Amelia Standing (ShPS).





Pitch perfect



IT HAS BEEN a wonderful year for the Music Department with many memorable highlights and a great array of concerts for our pupils to reflect on. Associated Board and Trinity Music exams continue to provide our students with targeted work, and we have been thrilled with their performance this year with the majority picking up Distinctions and Merits.

A range of concerts and Cathedral services have given ample opportunity for our pupils to shine. Our annual Spring Concert in the Cathedral featured strong performances by the Chamber Orchestra and an ambitious, but wonderfully-executed version of Allegri's *Miserere Mei* by Lydia Carr's student choir.

Schola Cantorum sang Mozart's *Solemn Vespers*, and were joined by special guest Sarah Fox, world-famous Soprano and former winner of the Kathleen Ferrier award. Chester Music Society were wooed by outstanding individual performances from our students, and our regular lunchtime concerts

gave those less experienced an opportunity to shine.

Next year the Department will host its first Young Musician of the Year competition, and later in 2014 will be involved in a major tour. ■





Other notes of interest...



MARISSA LANDY

Marissa Landy (5AC) has enjoyed a particularly bright year and has been selected to be one of only two flautists in the National Schools' Symphony Orchestra. The pinnacle of Grade 8 Distinction was this year reached by Katie Longson, Flute (U6CC), Jeremy Telford, Singing (U6NS) and Sean Telford, Singing (U6NS).



CATRIONA HOGG

Special mention must be made of Catriona Hogg (4DR) who gained 142 marks in her Grade 3 Singing exam: such a high mark is extremely rare and represents one of the highest marks in the UK this year.



From left:
Christmas Charity Concert
Dido and Aeneas
Concert in Chester Cathedral
Christmas Charity Concert



“Music is the aural backcloth to School life; we relax to it, worship to it, are entertained by it and educated in it. Music is, at best, about the highest things of the human spirit; it pushes us towards discovering things about ourselves that we have not seen before.”

Tim Harvey
Director of Music



PIANO TRIO

Our outstanding Piano Trio of Thomas Metcalf, Piano, (U6AM), Terence Au, Violin (U6JK) and Jeremy Telford, Cello gave a masterful account of Grieg's little-known trio. They received an outstanding masterclass in April by John Gough, principal study Piano tutor at the Royal Northern College of Music.





The Crucible

WITH LINES SUCH AS the immortal, 'Why do you come, yellow bird?' Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* carries the risk of tipping into melodrama. Led by two outstanding, yet fascinatingly different, John Proctors (Gareth Roberts (U6SD) and Matthew Spencer (U6JL). This awesomely talented cast and crew, comprising some 70 students in total, gave so generously of their time, skill and inexhaustible energies to produce a play of passion without melodrama,

tenderness without sentimentality and deep, deep integrity throughout. As Ronald Pickup remarked, it really was, "refreshing to hear language being given its full value and weight by everyone in the cast." Tommy Metcalf's (L6AM) original music, beautifully complemented the action, and the film by George Thompson (5 MW) focused all our minds on the massive injustice which lies at the heart of Miller's play and of so much of life right here and now. ■

"Along with some terrific central performances, what drove the evening was the shared sense of responsibility and energy. Truly an ensemble. A great achievement!"

Ronald Pickup
Distinguished actor and OKS

Back stage...

Whilst Gareth Roberts is an acclaimed veteran of The King's School and Young Theatre Clwyd productions and hopes to continue with drama at university and beyond, Matthew Spencer had never trodden the boards in his life before this production.

Dr McMahon was delighted by the spooky coincidence of finding ideal costumes in the Pennines town of Pendle – home of the Lancashire 'witches', ten of whom were hanged at the Lancaster Assizes in 1612 – 80 years before the witch hunt in Salem Massachusetts, which gave Arthur Miller his story.

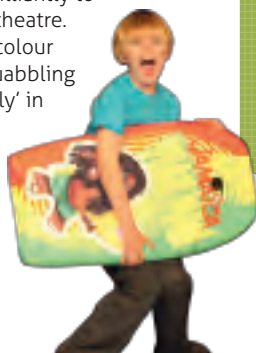
Dr McMahon was most grateful for the support given to this production by Amnesty International and by celebrated civil rights lawyers Baroness Helena Kennedy and Mr Michael Mansfield who kindly sent flowers on opening night.



The Last Resort



YOU MIGHT BE FORGIVEN for thinking that *The Last Resort*, a play about a summer's day in the life of a typically British seaside town, was an odd choice for the middle of winter! However, it was just the tonic audiences needed to cheer the dark nights before Christmas. Over 40 students from Removes to Fourth Year adopted a range of roles to tell the story of the town of Ferryton-on-Sea using physical theatre. Talented pupils worked together brilliantly to produce a hilarious, and at times touching, piece of theatre. The cast were dressed in colourful T-shirts, cleverly colour coordinated to denote their characters. From the squabbling seagulls in pale blue to the enthusiastic 'Bright Family' in yellow, and the murderous 'Old Ladies' in purple, characters from the town appeared and vanished before our eyes, creating an innovative and magical piece of theatre. ■



The Wipe Out Dance

Anyone who saw *The Last Resort* at Christmas will never forget the fabulously entertaining sight of Robin Lee (RmJW), Oscar Cornelius (RmSC) and Alasdair Daniels (RmJW) as the three cool-dude surfers in their shopping trolleys, surrounded by the cast of 'waves' doing the 'Wipe Out!' Dance! Ensemble theatre at its best!

"It was absolutely brilliant. So inventive! And I was pleased to see so many children involved."

Mrs Pat Daniels, CBE

The Last Resort by Chris Owen, directed by Jo Band was a contrast to previous King's productions. Starring over 40 Removes, Shells and Third Year pupils (and two of the GCSE Drama Fourth Year girls), the piece was created by the actors themselves and a few inflatables. Displaying their newly acquired physical theatre skills, the cast wowed audiences over two nights with their versatility, team work and coordination.



Dido and Aeneas



LAST NOVEMBER we were treated to a special evening with the production of the 17th century Baroque opera *Dido and Aeneas* by Henry Purcell. The cast was directed by Gareth Roberts (U6SD) with accompaniment provided by an orchestra conducted by former Director of Music, Philip Robinson. Drawing upon



The Aeneid by Roman poet Virgil, the simple set and elegant costumes contributed towards a classic tale of love, deception and heartbreak.

The major male singing role of Aeneas was shared by Sean Telford (U6NS) and David Fayle (U6CC) over the two nights, both bringing their own interpretation to Purcell's hero.

The production provided a mixture of light and dark tones. A highlight was one of the more humorous scenes in a sailors' tavern led by

Laurence Ankers (5FV). But inevitably, the darkness of tragedy cast its poignant shadow over the atmosphere of the production. This mood was captured by Lydia Carr's (U6BH) eerie and entrancing performance of the Sorceress, beautifully supported by her witches, Grace Roberts (5FV) and Katie Arathoon (5AC).

Marissa Landy (5AC) as Belinda and Sara Ashworth (L6AM) in the title role produced outstanding performances of difficult music scores to create a stunning and emotional ending. This was a unique and triumphant performance. *Dido and Aeneas* shall hopefully set a trend in awakening the long dormant opera talent at The King's School. ■

Back stage...

The final solo *Dido's lament* is considered by many to be the greatest aria in the 17th Century and Sara certainly pulled it off. Evocative lighting fitted her heart wrenching performance that suitably impacted on the audience. Virgil's *Aeneid* was an epic Latin poem written between 29 and 19 BC and is one of the most important classic works. It tells the legendary story of Aeneas and his travels. The tragic story of *Dido and Aeneas* doomed love affair comes from Book IV with the story modified for Purcell's opera. Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* was originally performed by Josias Priest's girls' School in Chelsea, London, no later than July 1688. As a consequence there is a predominance of mostly female parts, but it is to the credit of the talented tenors and basses of King's that they were able to leave their own mark on the production.



The History Boys

ALAN BENNETT'S PLAY, set in a northern school, contrasts the humour of school life with timeless themes of growing up, succeeding and playing the system. The Sixth Form cast tackled the issues in the play with empathy and in an energetic manner working alongside English teacher Dr McMahon and parent Neil Benson. Rehearsals were filled with laughter and enthusiasm, although the demands of the French scene were a challenge to the non-linguists among us. Yet the experience was one

which led to a great atmosphere and chemistry within the cast and crew. It was an experience enjoyed by one and all, and working with such a talented cast was a pleasure.

Meredith Benson and Annie Stapley
(Directors)

"I was genuinely transported into their world and completely forgot that I knew these people as students."

Toby Hughes
Head of Sixth Form

'*The History Boys*' was an acting debut for much of the cast – and a return to the stage after a 40 year break for Mr Benson! ■

Students not only showed off their acting, but displayed their musical prowess with solos from Laurence Ankers (5FV) and Olly Crowe (U6JK) along with guitar from Owen Haylock (5FV).



"A fantastic and impressive evening. Pass on my congratulations to everyone involved."

A parent

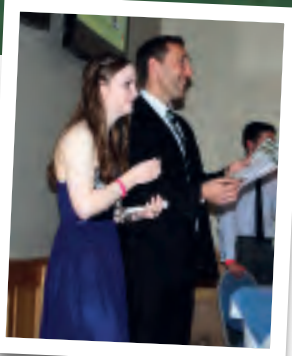


Cricket

SEVERAL PHRASES are over-used in the English language, with 'wash-out' being one of them. However, it is no exaggeration that the cricket season of 2012 was just that.

The First XI performed well in the National T20 competition but were unable to get past the regional round, losing to King's, Macclesfield. The Player of the Year Award was notable in that it went to Kate Coppack (leaver 2012) after three years of First XI cricket.

The strong U14 side, with several outstanding players such as Stephen Rimmer (4DR), Alastair Andradý (4EH) and Hansaj Singh (4EH) had another successful



season but didn't quite reach their third successive county final, losing in the semi.

The U13a team won all but two of their matches, a winning run which included a victory over Manchester Grammar School. The U13b team also showed some great play throughout the season. Although they were only able to play one of their district games they were lucky to keep a few games and all but one of their games were won.

The U12s had a most successful season, including a fine run in the County Cup, with Max Dunlap (ShML) and Frazer Marsden (Shells) guiding King's through a tough semi final at Brine Leas School. Unfortunately, an outstanding Stockport Grammar School team were too strong and King's were unable to taste victory in the final in Macclesfield. Perhaps the greatest success was sheer numbers of players attending training, even in poor weather. This squad of players has a great future. ■



"At King's there are so many opportunities to do so many different sports. I play football, cricket and tennis. I love the sport here."

Alistair Riddy (4ET)

Swimming



Swimming has become a key activity over the past two years. Success in qualifying for the National Relay finals two years running has bolstered the School's involvement in the sport, with Wrexham SC Head Coach, Craig Prime running two 8am sessions as well as senior games. King's also continue to flourish in the Chester and District galas, as well as instigating a meet against The Grange School.

Sports Dinner



A snowy evening at the end of the Lent Term saw the senior sportsmen and women celebrate their successes with the inaugural King's School Sports Dinner. A stirring panegyric on school sport by former Second Master John Hargreaves proved a fitting end to the evening, with Players' Player Awards being presented for each of the senior sports.



Basketball



Basketball is something of a niche activity at King's, but nonetheless it is important for those pupils who put in their time and efforts into this exacting sport. The Thursday training sessions with ex-Wales player Pete Arden were very well attended and the Chester & District Cups allowed U12, U14 and U16 teams to develop their game against their local rivals.



The U18 team, led by captain Jonathan Verity (U6HN), produced some excellent results and it has been a real pleasure to see some inexperienced players develop throughout the year. The team produced a 15-1 win against Bolton School and performed creditably against Merchant Taylors', Crosby and Calday Grange Grammar schools; three big hockey playing schools. In the National Cup, King's narrowly lost to eventual North Champions Altrincham Grammar School in a tight game 3-4. With such an inexperienced group, it has been a very promising year with many players available to play next season. ■

Hockey



THE U14 TEAM are arguably the most talented side in the School and have spent the last two seasons largely unbeaten. In the National Cup competition, eleven of the squad were unavailable through a sickness bug for a crucial game

against Weaverham School. Although producing a spirited performance, losing 0-3 meaning they did not progress to the regional rounds. There is a huge wealth of talent in this group and they are certainly ones to watch over the upcoming seasons.

The U15 team, who performed so well last year, had the big task of playing in a higher age group and represented the School at U16 level in the National Cup. Captained by William Dodd-Moore (4MP), the team performed admirably and although they did not progress past the county stages of the National Cup, they are another group of players who will be exciting to watch as they progress to the first XI next year.

After five fantastic years at King's and finishing top scorer in the English Premier League this season, teacher Simon Egerton, has made the understandable decision to take up the offer of a professional contract with HGC, a hockey club in Wassenaar, Holland. He will be a team-mate of Barry Middleton, the current GB Captain, and we wish him all the best for the future.

Rugby



King's first XV rugby team started the season well with a spate of wins, but finished the season poorly due to a loss of players to injury. Stand-out players this year have been Jack Barber (L6JR), Matthew Anthony (L6PW) and Jack Jameson (L6PW). Next season the team hope to build on the progression made this season and add strength and depth to the squad with some of the current Fourth Year boys.



Gifted and Talented programme



This year saw both the continuation of the Gifted and Talented Programme, where King's top athletes attend talks concerning psychology and nutrition and the introduction of elite mentoring. This latter initiative has been developed to help those at the top of their sport, often with schedules involving weekends away and 20 hours per week training!

Tennis

The boys' tennis teams had a very successful season. The highlight was the performance of Cameron Hogg (Leaver 2012) and Sam Arshad-Roberts (L6SB) in the U16s Northern Schools' Championships where they reached the semi final and lost narrowly to the eventual winners. All the School teams put in some tremendous performances during friendly matches against schools such as Manchester Grammar, The Grange and Ellesmere College. The U15 and U13 team played in the Aegon Championships and both missed out narrowly on qualifying for the county finals.

"I have been County Champion in both cricket and football; King's Sport has given me eleven years of fantastic memories."

Matt Williams (U6CC)

Football Focus



THE 2012-13 SEASON will be remembered for two things: the weather and another remarkable first XI performance. In spite of the weather, King's teams still played nearly 200 fixtures, winning well over half of them.

Whilst all teams in all year groups were competitive throughout the season, with every year group achieving notable results, the outstanding performances came at senior level. King's once again managed to field four senior teams on several occasions with our teams often 'playing up'. The third XI had a full fixture list and the second XI once again enjoyed great success, losing only five times in a 32 game season – three of the defeats coming against opposition first teams. King's fielded two teams in the District 7-a-

side tournament and the second string missed qualification from the group stage by a solitary goal. The first XI had a very difficult act to follow in the sense that we considered their predecessors last year to be the best team that we have seen at King's. They stepped up wonderfully and had a season in which they were not only very successful on the pitch, but conducted themselves magnificently off it. Whilst there were far too many individual performances to list, King's were blessed with an attacking duo of Ben Sawney (UKJS) and Ben Leaman (U6BH) who were a joy to watch at times. Sam Jones (5MW), who will be an important member of the squad for another two seasons, was also selected to tour with the full ISFA squad. ■

Successful Sevens

King's first XI retained the District Cup and the District 7-a-side trophy and won the County Cup coming from 2-0 down in the final to beat a very strong Wilmslow team 3-2. King's lost by the narrowest of margins in the ISFA Cup quarter-final and Mersey Shield semi final, both away from home. It has been a fantastic, memorable season.



"From cricket to football to tennis, the support and facilities at King's are amazing; I love it!"

Frazer Marsden (ShPS)

Old School football



THE FINAL DAY OF THE LENT TERM saw the third playing of the School v Old Boys' football match. Two teams, organised by former first XI captain Harry Peel played two very competitive games against the School, one game ending in a draw, the other in a win for the Alumni. It was great to see so many former players return and discuss their time at King's. ■

Athletics and summer sports 2012



WITH THE START of the athletics season of course along came the rain. Competitions started with a friendly track only meeting against two local schools. King's won four out of eight of the competitions. This moved swiftly onto the District athletics. Boys' and girls' teams from Shells, Third, Fourth and Fifth Years competed across a range of track

and field events. Some outstanding individual performances were by Rachel Huber (3RL) taking 2nd in the discus, George Back (4PN) and Stephen Wynne (4MP) came 1st and 2nd respectively in the 75m hurdles; Stephen also came 2nd in the high jump. Sian Jackson (5CG) was 2nd in the high jump and Sam Gareh (5MW) came 2nd in the long jump.

It was the English Schools' Athletics Meet next in which we entered four teams. The King's teams performed really well again with some fantastic individual

performances. The highlight was Martha Owen (ShAI) winning the 1500m in just under championship record time.

Each year the Removes have their own district athletics event. The girls were particularly impressive, taking second place overall. After winning the discus and representing Cheshire in the County Minors' Competition. Megan Gareh (ShRC) was then asked to represent Cheshire in the Cheshire and Merseyside cup. This was a fantastic end to the year, as Megan was crowned champion. ■



Rounders round-up

The highlight of the calendar has to be the U12s success in the District Competition. The U12s won the title after a convincing victory against all local schools. King's beat Christleton, Queen's, Catholic High, Blacon and Bishops' High Schools to win the District title. This year group have had a massive turn out for rounders, quite often fielding A and B teams.

Tennis



MORNING, NOON AND NIGHT

Tennis is one of the most popular girls' summer sports. With morning club running five times per week and the opportunity to play at lunch and after school there is plenty of time to develop the skills of the game. The 2012 season was hard hit by the weather but matches were still played against Cheadle Hulme, Rydal, Loreto and The Grange schools.



TOURNAMENT SUCCESS

King's enter all three district tennis tournaments as well as AEGON tennis for Shells and Fourth Year students. The U15 team finished 3rd in the district and the U13 team were runners up in their competition. The U19 team were crowned District Champions for the 2nd year on the run. King's had some good results in the AEGON competition with the Shells taking 3rd place and the Fourth Year team coming 2nd.

"I really appreciated the chance to compete in the District Minors' Competition with a great team of girls!"

Megan Gareh (ShRC)



Hockey

GIRLS' HOCKEY CONTINUES to be played at a competitive level, with this year being no exception. King's reached the County finals in all three age groups for the outdoor competitions and in the indoor competitions at U19 and U16 level. The first XI squad look extremely promising for future years as their season has gone from strength to

strength and many of the squad are still in the Fifth Year. In the National Schools' Competitions this year King's had success at U13 level in the In2Hockey Championship. They won the Cheshire Title and came 4th in the North West Semi-Final, hosted by King's. The annual U12 Invitational tournament at King's



allowed our U12s to compete against strong opposition – winning the plate section was a great result. ■

Captions:
U19 above.
U13 below.

Netball



With a total of 141 friendly and competitive fixtures spanning across both Michaelmas and Lent terms there is plenty to be proud of in terms of girls' netball.

It has been the first year that King's have won a County title and the first year that the number of girls continuing to play netball higher up the School has led to both a representative first and second VII team.

All before school, lunchtime and after school training sessions have been well attended, with the girls producing some great displays of team netball. Remarkably the U14s have not lost all season scoring 365 goals in 17 matches. The Senior Squads have won 13 of their 19 matches and the U13 squads have scored a massive 508 goals between them in 30 matches.

First inaugural old girls' hockey match



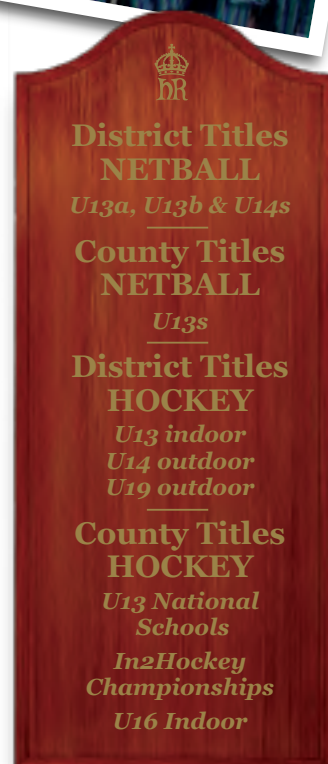
April saw King's host the first Old Girls' Hockey Fixture, organised by 2010 leaver, Kate Phillipson. Kate brought a very strong squad, ranging from leavers in 2010 to 2012.

The match was closely fought and the current First XI captained by Lexi Garnett (U6SD) and Hannah Dent (U6CC) forced a draw. The leavers stole the game in a penalty shoot-out.

"We really enjoyed winning the U14 netball tournament this year. We worked really hard all year and are very proud of it."

Lora Hunt (3HB) and
Rachel Huber (3RL)

So much to add to our girls' honour board...



Captions:
U13b top.
U13a bottom.



Gym and Dance clubs

THERE HAS BEEN a large and enthusiastic group of girls from the Shells and Removes who have regularly attended gym club this year. They have worked

on improving their own individual skills and practising with friends in partner and group pieces. They have also spent a good deal of time on improving their vaulting skills.

The main focus of gym club has been for girls to enjoy practising and performing a range of different gymnastic skills in a non-competitive environment, but we did enter a team into the Chester and District Gymnastics Competition, achieving our best ever result – the team finished in 2nd place overall.

This year the Dance Club have worked on an array of different dance styles. During the Michaelmas term the girls worked on whole group pieces in both Street Dance and Jazz styles. In the Lent term 'Dance Fusion' was the order of the day. The aim was to take two different dance styles from a list as diverse as Rock & Roll, Charleston, Tap, Jive and Disco and fuse them together for a unique routine. Working in smaller groups, the girls were entirely responsible for selecting the music, arranging costume and choreographing the piece. The term's work culminated in a 10 minute performance in the Vanbrugh Theatre for a very select panel of judges. Their hard work paid off and the girls put on a great show and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of performing on stage. ■

Dance

Nicolette Whitley from *Alleviate Dance* and former finalist on 'So You Think You Can Dance', worked with the Fourth Year girls in games in December. This is the second time Nicolette has worked with the group, coming in last year to work on some street dance in their third year. The girls again performed some street dance followed by a taster of contemporary dance. A great experience.

Seven years of representation

After seven years of representing the School at not only hockey, but also netball, Emily Moss (U6JS), Hannah Dent (U6CC) and Lexi Garnett (U6SD) finish their last season with the highest honours; captaining their senior squads. All three girls have served the PE Department in an exemplary fashion and serve as great role-models for the younger players in the School.

Flash mob!

After weeks of secret rehearsals in PE lessons, the girls at King's performed a flash mob performance of Mariah Carey's 'All I want for Christmas' to a stunned School in December. From all over the School girls joined the dance in the theatre foyer joined by teachers who had also been secretly rehearsing! It was a fantastic performance and great fun on the last day of term!



Gymnastics

Congratulations to the Shell gymnastics team. Jessie Lee (ShAI) and Abi Fisher (ShRC) finished in 3rd and 2nd place in the vault, Anna Lloyd (ShML) and Jessie Lee were in 2nd place in the pairs sequence and along with Eloise Dooley (ShPS) they were runners up in the competition as a whole.



"Gym was a great experience for me. I improved a lot and have enjoyed practising every week. I have learnt a lot from it and am very excited to start the new term in September. The coaches have been very patient and really helped me improve my skills. Gym has been one of my favourite activities at School this year."

Abigail Fisher (ShRC)



J14 Squad

Once again the J14 squad had over 50 pupils attend the summer school sessions. The training camp at Easter was attended by 34 pupils who trained hard for the week at Pangbourne College. The season opener at the Hampton Head was followed up with wins for both the boys' and girls' crews during the head season. At the National Sculling Head, following on from last year's success, the boys were

again the quickest octuple in the country, beating over 60 octuples from schools and clubs. This placed King's as the leading J14 School in the country. The girls performed well with a 5th position, the girls' second octuple came 2nd. At the National Schools' Regatta, stormy conditions meant that the J14 racing was cancelled, a disappointing end to the season for the 32 athlete squad. ■

“Every year the club evolves; a bustling, vibrant rowing club which supports its athletes to excel whilst learning many key life skills in a team environment. It is an iconic club on the national rowing scene.”

David Blackham, Director of Rowing



Girls' 1st VIII

The girls' 1st VIII and coxed four competed at the Head of the Charles Regatta in Boston, USA, for the very first time in October. Hosted by Simmonds College, it was a fantastic event and exposure for the senior girls in their quest to be the top British girls' rowing School.

Girls' Senior Squad

With a young group of athletes, the girls' senior squad has progressed well this year. The senior girls attended a training camp in Henley after an encouraging 5th position at the Schools' Head of the River, two places better than in 2012 in Championship VIIIs. King's won both the Senior Women's IM2 and Novice girls' events at the North of England Head. At the National Schools' Regatta, the senior girls' coxed four also made the semi-final and competed well but were unable to progress into the final. The girls' championship VIII won the repechage claiming lane 1 in the final. Pushing the whole way the crew finished in 5th and with it the highest finishing position of a girls' Championship VIII at the National Schools' Regatta from King's. On the Sunday of the regatta all three King's coxed fours made their respective semi-finals.

J15 Squad



THE J15 SQUAD COMPETED throughout the head season with two boys' VIIIs and one girls' VIII. Strong performances throughout the season (most markedly the boys' VIII winning at Runcorn Head), set up a positive set of Schools' Head results, the boys' championships VIII coming in 7th whilst the 2nd VIII came 5th. The girls' VIII came 2nd. All members of the J15 squad attended the training camps in Ghent and Henley. The girls' squad excelled at the inter-regional's where the coxed four won a bronze medal. At the National Schools'

Regatta the J15 2nd VIII qualified for the semi-final but were unable to progress into a competitive final. The Championship VIII made the final and gave a good account of themselves, finishing in 6th place. The girls' VIII, after winning their heat, dominated the final to bring home a gold medal, a professional row from the crew who looked unbeatable all weekend in this championship level event. Seventeen boys and nine girls progress to their respective senior squads with national level racing experience, and will continue to develop as senior rowers. ■

National Honours

Ralph Elsegood (L6HF), Patrick Hanratty (U6BH), Toby Miller (L6DB) and Finn Abberton (L6DB) have produced excellent results so far on the GB pathway, with all four boys in a good position to win an international seat and vest this summer. Mark Brownson is hopeful of a GB coxing seat this summer. George Middlehurst (U6NH) and Liam Hunt (U6CC) performed well at Welsh trials to secure a seat in the Home Countries squad whilst Ben Paxton (5CM), Lucas Martin-Yates (5FV), Alex Slater (5CM), Ben Monk (5AC) and William Blacklock (5DL) are looking to secure a place in the GB J16 squad to race France in the summer. ■



Top right:
Wallingford Regatta
J18 VIII

Top left:
J16 coxed four

Bottom left:
Girls' 1st VIII

Pangbourne J14 training camp

34 pupils attended from the J14 squad and four coaches. The group enjoyed great river conditions at the River Thames at Pangbourne. Both the girls' and boys' squads made excellent progress, with an opportunity to practice on the water for the regatta season, as well as build the summer teams that will compete 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 and 34 pupils returned with happy memories and increased boat speed for the summer months!

Senior boys' success

THE SENIOR BOYS' SQUAD divided into a senior and J16 squad for 2012-2013.

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 Wycliffe and Runcorn Heads. At the Schools' Head the 1st VII finished in 7th position in Championship Vllls, an improvement of one place on the 2012 performance, the 2nd VIII finished in 10th. After a successful training camp in Ghent the 1st VIII won the J18 Vllls event at Wallingford Regatta, with the J16 coxed four winning at both Wallingford and Bedford Regatta. At the National Schools' Regatta, the 2nd VIII drew Shrewsbury School in the semi-final and battled hard with them, eventually finishing 4th in their semi, half a length behind Shrewsbury, but in a

time which would have seen them progress in the other semi-final. The boys' 3rd VIII raced through the semi, but were not able to take advantage of their lane 5 position in the 3rd VIII final; however, it was good to see a King's 3rd VIII back in the event, the first since 2009. The boys' Championship VIII raced the race of their season, sitting in 2nd with 15 metres to go in the semi-final they were piped to the line by St Paul's by 0.3 second; this relegated them to the repechage, where they fought with spirit, eventually finishing 5th ahead of Eton.

On the Sunday of the regatta the Championship coxed four finished 4th in their semi-final, the Championship coxless four fought off competition from the top schools in the country to win a bronze medal behind Hampton and Pangbourne schools. The J16

coxed four dominated their event in both the semi-final and final and their gold medal was never in doubt, an impressive performance from an unbeaten crew throughout the summer season. ■

The club continues to buzz with excitement and expectation. Over 100 athletes have competed for the club regularly and with 104 athletes rowing at the National Schools' Regatta 2013, both participation and performance continue in a healthy balance at the club. The partnership with the University of Chester has meant that each of the senior squad training camps had a sports scientist in support.

Ghent 2013



The senior boys' training camp involved 45 athletes. Despite cold conditions the camp went well with all athletes making progress. Five club Vllls and a coxed four evolved from the camp and all the athletes returned with considerable mileage on the water under their belts. Our hosts as always were keen to support us and there was a chance for all to indulge themselves in Flemish culture with a trip to the city of Bruges, hot chocolate being a popular drink for all!



Henley 2013

26 girls, boating from Leander, were able to experience rowing on one of the most iconic stretches of water in the world. Conditions were blustery; water time was therefore restricted. However, the coaching team and athletes made the most of it with sessions in the gym, including a Zumba session to mix up the work throughout the week. The camp was an excellent chance for the King's girls' crews to bond and living in caravans for the week, culinary skills were put to the test!





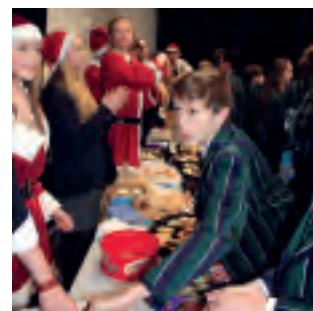
Great results, across the board

THE CHESS YEAR at King's got off to a great start with a range of victories at county, school and club level in the Cheshire and North Wales Junior Chess Championship which King's

hosted for the fourth consecutive year. We were named School Champions and, with many talented new players coming into the Wednesday Evening Chess Club, hopes were high for the ECF

Junior Championship. Teams led by Matthew Temple (U6KS), Daniel Savidge (RmRA), Henry Thomson (L6HF) and Susan Gorman (L6PRW) defeated Newcastle-under-Lyme School in the North West zone but were beaten by Manchester Grammar School, with Arjun Balasubramanian (RmLB) snatching a tough draw at board 5. In the regional final, our A team put up a good performance against Newcastle-under-Lyme but unfortunately could not progress further due to the competition's unique age handicap. Susan Gorman, Catherine Savidge (RmLB) and Mariam Littler (RmLB) won the Northern Semi-Final of the Girls' Under 19 Chess Championship and have a good chance in the finals in July. As we approach the summer, a number of students have qualified for the Delancey UK Schools' Chess challenge and will be going to the Mega Final in the summer. ■

It's all in a good cause



It has been a great year for the charities committee, with a number of events centering around national campaigns such as 'Children in Need' and 'Comic Relief'. These were very busy times for the committee. Fancy dress fashion shows, dodgeball tournaments, and a Comic Relief bake off among other events ensured that as well as having fun, well over £7800 was raised for these excellent charities.

However, it was perhaps the money raised for local causes that was most pleasing. Over 100 staff and pupils from King's took part in the Chester Santa Dash for two local hospices, whilst a sponsored own clothes day raised well over £2570 to support the Anya appeal, helping a local Neuroblastoma sufferer hopefully receive life saving treatment.



Ranks swell in CCF

Over the last twelve months we have seen considerable change in the CCF. We have done more training than ever before and as a result numbers are thriving.

The new recruits have been put through their paces as they learn how to work together as a squad, handle a rifle safely, dress smartly and how to take part in an attack. Everyone has fired the Cadet L98A2 Assault Rifle with some proving to be outstandingly good shots.

All cadets have had the opportunity to take part in some challenging adventurous training whether walking in the mountains of Snowdonia, mountain biking the Marin Trail or orienteering through Delamere forest.

The RAF and Army sections have continued to follow their own training programmes and with outstanding cadets on both sides of the contingent, choosing next year's senior cadets looks to be more of a challenge than ever!



Making a drama out of it

The Drama Club run for the past four years by pupil Hattie Webb up until she left for university, it is now run by Grace Roberts (5FV), Olivia Morris (5CM) and Laurence Ankers (5FV). The club is open to Removes to Third Years every Wednesday lunchtime. In Drama, we do all sorts, such as making up sketches and working on acting techniques (accents was a particular hit). We also play various games which can be enjoyed by just about everyone, from Removes to even the odd teacher who wishes to join in! The aim of the club is to introduce drama to those who could be intimidated by the daunting world of the theatre. Introducing drama in a fun way gives even the quietest of pupils the confidence to stand on a stage and hopefully perform in productions in and out of School (such as *The Last Resort*, directed by Mrs Jo Band, last December). Drama Club has been a joy to run this year and we hope to see everyone back in September!

Great film CLASSICS...

Sixth Form Film Society bounced round the genres this year, looking at *Master & Commander*, *Cabin in the Woods*, *Winter's Bone*, *Field of Dreams*, *A Few Good Men*,

The Quick & the Dead, *Signs* and *The Life of Brian*. Next year we're expanding to also invite pupils from the Fifth Year. Senior Film Society will run in the Sixth Form Lecture Theatre making use of its big screen and surround sound on Mondays from 4-5pm.

A Model Society

A STUDENT-LED SOCIETY, we meet weekly and a committed group of stalwarts inspires a new contingent to organise, write resolutions for, chair and participate in UN-style debates on topics as diverse as cyber terrorism, microcredit and biological warfare. We also prepare for conferences and attend one a term.

In the autumn, we took our usual trip to Cheadle Hulme School, a local conference where new members can find their debating 'feet'. Despite being relative novices, we came away with a raft of awards. Our 'old hands'

Harry Butt (U6SD), Chris Austin (U6NH) and Kartik Upadhyay (U6JK) were all Highly Commended and others, for whom this was a first foray into MUN, Commended.

We represented Chad again at George Watson's College, Edinburgh in March. Hard on the heels of our win last year, the King's delegation won Best Delegation in the General Assembly after a very successful weekend in committee. Awards are given to the top delegates in each committee and for us included a 'Best Delegate in Committee' award for Harry Butt, three 'Highly Commended' awards for Oscar



Lloyd Williams (L6AM), Bertie Walker (U6JK) and Chris Austin and five 'Commended' awards within the remaining delegates Kartik Upadhyay, Jemimah Beardwood (L6ER), Louis Bostock-Williams (L6AM), Alex Jekov (L6AM), Barnaby Rule KS (3JJ) and Arjun Rao KS (4DR). Whilst predominately a Sixth Form activity, this year we are

pleased to welcome our most junior members of the Society ever, in the capable form of Philippa Noble (RmSC), Jamie Berry (RmLB), Oliver Williams (RmNG) and Arran Fearn (RmLB). They enjoyed attending a one day conference for new delegates at Withington Girls' School in June. ■



Fair's fair at King's



Geog Soc has continued to run their popular Fairtrade tuck shops and Fairtrade Cafés this year. The aim of both ventures is to raise awareness of Fairtrade issues as well as raising money for Water Aid. Since the conception in 2009, of the Fairtrade initiatives within King's, over £4000 has been raised for Water Aid. The Fairtrade Cafés have seen a themed approach this year with the Christmas and Valentine Cafés being extremely popular and the 'Summer Holiday' themed Cafe in July. As well as showcasing a range of musical talent from Removes to the Upper

Sixth, the Cafe is now also open to the Junior School. J1 and J2 pupils were invited to the Valentine Cafe and J3 and J4 to the Summer Cafe. This is an extremely exciting development for Geog Soc and we hope to involve the Junior School even more next year with Junior School pupils performing alongside the Sixth Form. Geog Soc has also expanded its range of refreshments with Fairtrade banana, strawberry and vanilla milkshakes on sale. We must publicly thank Mr Beasley and his team for their continued support and, of course, the Geog Soc team who never fail to impress.



Solid gold result

This has been another busy year for pupils at King's participating in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. Over 70 new pupils registered for the Award, at all three levels. We continue to work closely with our expedition providers at Plas y Brenin to ensure that pupils have a safe and enjoyable expedition experience. Bronze candidates successfully completed their practice expeditions in the Clwydian Range in May. The silver and gold candidates will be travelling to Snowdonia later in the summer term.

Twelve pupils have successfully completed their gold Award so far this year. Hannah Dent (U6CC) and Mark Brownson (U6KS) received their certificates at a presentation ceremony at St James' Palace, London, which was attended by HRH, the Duke of Edinburgh.

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





Read all about it

THE LIBRARY CONTINUES to be a well-used and vibrant resource within the King's community. As well as providing a peaceful refuge for Sixth Formers during their private study periods, we also cater for many classes, using the computer suite and the study area. We are busy outside lesson times, with the extended opening hours proving very popular. It is wonderful to see pupils using the library for a variety of reasons; some for study, some for quiet reading, and of course, our fantastic team of pupil librarians have been working very hard.

There have been lots of events held in the library encouraging students to read more. We celebrated World Book Day in

March with a School-wide competition pairing up characters from books.

We have been getting increasingly involved with embedding research skills and independent learning in the curriculum. Removes have been studying such skills as part of the Enrichment Programme and they have produced some fantastic work on topics as diverse as whether there could be life on Mars to films about how underwater life bears any relation to reality! They are enjoying the mix of learning distinct skills at the same time as researching topics outside the normal curriculum. We also worked with the History Department to help Removes on their castles

project which gave them the chance to put their skills into practice. It was wonderful to see the high quality of work produced. ■

“There is a buzz in the library that makes reading an escape into places only thought possible on paper.”

Sixth form leaver

And a few more words...

BOOK QUIZ

We have entered a team of Removes and Shells into the Cheshire Schools' Book Quiz for the fourth year running. The team, made up of Owen Parsonage (RmNG), Arjun Balasubramaniam (RmLB), Tasmin Feakes (ShAI) and Amelia Standing (ShPS) enjoyed reading the six set books, but just missed out (by a few points) on a place in the final.

SHADOW PLAY

A group of Third Year pupils have been shadowing the Carnegie Award (for books written for children and young people). 'Team GB' have had some heated discussions around the books, and it has been great to see the enthusiasm with which they have approached their reading. It will be interesting to see if the judges choose one of our favourites.

TOM TOUCHES DOWN



It was an unusual day in February when we hosted an author event with Tom Palmer for the Junior School. It is not every day that the library allows (soft) rugby balls to be kicked around, but we very much enjoyed listening to Tom's inspirational talks and seeing the enthusiastic readers who will soon be visiting our library.





Ticket to ride

THIS YEAR, our students have been volunteering with Wirral and Cheshire Riding for the Disabled Association a part of their Enrichment Community Service programme. Olivia Titmuss (U6JK), Abigail Tomlinson (U6KS) and Oliver Bruton (U6BH) write, "When we arrive, we jump out of the bus (usually straight into puddles) and get to work. This involves: tacking up the horses, helping riders mount using the special mounting area and then leading the riders. We have found it a very rewarding programme in which we have enjoyed ourselves, but also watched other people benefit as well."

Lucy Middlehurst (5DL) added, "On one particular week, we led them into the deep, mysterious woods. Hearing the squelch of the mud underneath the hooves and seeing the riders work to overcome any fears was a highlight of my time at Riding for the Disabled."

Anna Longson (5DL) and Divya Avula (5FV) said, "The riding is not only enjoyed by the riders because it is fun and they are enjoying being out in the open air, but

also it is recommended as a form of physiotherapy. For example, one rider is wheelchair bound and the regular riding really aids building her core muscles."

Francesca Jebb (5FV) and Ellie Kearney-Mitchell (5DL) commented, "When you see the riders enjoying themselves you get a unique feeling of giving back to the community. It allows the riders to do something they can't normally do, and we were told that sometimes it is the highlight of their week. Similarly to how Enrichment is a break to our normal curriculum, riding at Riding for the Disabled is a break from the riders' everyday life."

The aim is for both riders and volunteers to have as much fun and relaxation as possible and grow in self confidence. We think we have achieved that! ■



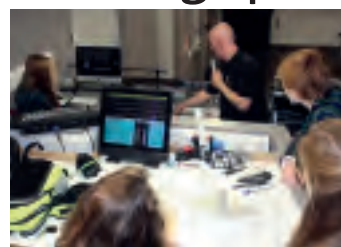
Judge and jury

Courts in Action is an enrichment option that deals with the workings of the legal system in the UK. Students take the roles of barristers, witnesses and jury members and re-enact cases preparing their own questions and answers. Twelve students from Fourth and Fifth Years take this option each term. Once the students have perfected the cases, a full role play is carried out showing how a case is presented in court.

In the final session, students get the opportunity to visit the Crown Court in Chester to see the place where many famous trials have happened and to witness a real trial in session from the public gallery.



Backstage pass



2012/13 introduced a Technical Theatre Enrichment option. Students were given a short scene from a play to act, direct, light and produce. Over the weeks they accumulated the necessary skills to produce a play from the initial rehearsal stage through production, design, budgeting and technical lessons. Week by week the knowledge builds from the technical terms of stage craft into a professional, comprehensive command of show production. Technical skills include: Stage Lighting, Sound, Stage Management, Budgeting and Technical Stage Management.

A year of Enrichment

Options this year included:

ACADEMIC

Languages: Mandarin Chinese, Italian and Greek.

Sciences: Electronics, Astronomy, Chemistry Club, Engineering, Computer Science, Organic Chemistry, CAD/CAM and Geology.

Other Academic: Current Affairs Magazine, History of Art, Psychology, Reason & Argument, University Extension and Codes and Cipher & Logical Problems.

SKILLS

First Aid, Sports Leadership, Success in School, Money Matters, Biodiversity, Count in Action, Cultural Cuisine, Radio Blog, Theatre Tech; Stocks & Shares, World at Work, Young Enterprise and Life-Saving Award.

CREATIVE

Animation, Performing Arts, Digital Photography, Fashion and Textiles, Creative Writing, Film Critique, iOS Band and Jewellery Making.

COMMUNITY ACTION

Riding for the Disabled, Charity Shops, Save the Family, Residential Homes and Pupils' own Community Project.

Engineered for success



During Enrichment this year we have completed a number of exciting and challenging activities. We started the year designing and building varying sorts of K'nex bridges, normally with the objective of spanning a gap and being able to take a certain load. Eventually we adapted our designs to produce either a swing bridge or a draw bridge. Using a new construction technique we embarked on a completion to build the tallest free standing tower, with the record being 2.4 metres. Other activities in enrichment include tech-card, a way of using card with split pins and gears to create different types of structure and machinery. Some of the more enjoyable tasks included building a massive K'nex rollercoaster, a K'nex frog that moves, an Archimedes screw and looking at the consequences of not getting the Physics right by successfully imploding a can!

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