

# The King's Eye

Annual Report 2013/14



THE KING'S SCHOOL  
CHESTER





## Governing Body:

Professor Hagan Bayley  
 Professor Jon Billowes  
 Jo Clague  
 Bonner Davies  
 The Right Reverend Peter Forster  
 Kevin Hassett  
 The Reverend Canon Peter Howell-Jones  
 Keith James  
 Michael Jessop  
 Katrina Kerr  
 Sue Marks  
 The Very Reverend Gordon McPhate  
 Ian O'Doherty  
 Dr David Pawson  
 Graham Ramsbottom  
 Andrew Storrar  
 The Reverend Ian Thomas  
 Stephen Cross (Clerk to the Governors)



## From the Chair of Governors

IT HAS BEEN A MOMENTOUS YEAR FOR KING'S, with the announcement not only of the building of the Junior School Learning Centre, but of plans to open Willow Lodge, the new Infant School. As I write, the contractors are on site, well underway with the Learning Centre which will include a new library, Science laboratory, Design and Art studios, small learning rooms, an outdoor classroom and completely new entrance and reception, and final touches are being put to the Willow Lodge plans.

Meanwhile, the School continues to 'buck the trend' in recruitment success, being as full as ever of outstanding students. We are enormously grateful to Chester Municipal Charities and to the Hope Education Trust for their support in reaching out to bright students, and to the King's School Parents' Association for supporting a Sixth Form scholarship. Part of our mission is to serve

our community of Chester and the wider area, and we are determined to do so more and more. I am particularly grateful to my fellow Governors who continue to set the highest standards of governance and loyalty to this great School.

This year the Governing Body welcomed Hagan Bayley, Old King's Scholar, Professor of Biochemistry at Oxford, Jon Billowes, Professor of Physics at Manchester, Sue Marks, Head of Withington Girls' School and Canon Peter Howell-Jones, Vice-Dean of Chester, to our numbers. Last summer we welcomed Graham Ramsbottom, Chief Executive of WheatSheaf and Ian O'Doherty, Chief Executive of MBNA. We have also slimmed down our committee structure and established two important working groups, one looking at our strategy for Bursaries and another taking a very long-term look at the horizon and the innovative way we will approach the future. King's

has always been a school which moves forward to the next big things, and it's a pleasure and a privilege to chair its Board!

We have been enormously lucky to have had, over the last eight years, the Reverend Ian Thomas as a Governor. Ian joined the Board as a nominee of the Cathedral and Rector of the Duke's parish of Eccleston. He retires from parish and Board this summer and, in typically modest fashion, has bowed out quietly, but I cannot end this introduction without thanking him and wishing him and Margaret every joy in retirement.

I wish all parents, students, staff and friends of the School a wonderful summer, which I know will be crowned by some more superb results in August.

**Eleanor Johnson, Chair of Governors**

“It has been a momentous year for King's.”

Eleanor Johnson, Chair of Governors







“There is no doubt that King's in 2014 is a dynamic and exciting place to be.”

Chris Ramsey, Headmaster

## From the Headmaster

**Y**OU WILL HAVE SEEN in the colourful pages of the *Herald* each term a record of the hundreds of successes enjoyed by students of all ages. This summary Annual Report brings the year to a close with some formal words about people and achievements, and an overview of where we are in July 2014. Few can doubt that the position is impressive!

The new buildings starting to rise from the ground on the North side of the site are a wonderful sign of confidence, and there is no doubt that King's in 2014 is a dynamic and exciting place to be. We are rightly judged first of

all on our results – and superb Oxbridge results, record university success, and increasingly inspirational teaching and learning have all been features of this year – but this has also been a year of looking forward. Our new digital learning platform will transform the way students learn. Exciting plans for partnerships will bring us closer to the community, and of course the King's family will, in another year's time, be increased by one new member, Willow Lodge!

Schools are all about change and 'letting go'; though it is sad to see students and colleagues move on, we are about developing staff as much as pupils. So, we wish the Bursar well as she

moves on; we are delighted as well as sad that Toby Hughes, Neil Shepherd and Jayne Sabio move on (and up!) to bigger challenges, and wish all our Sixth Form leavers well. Dr Jane Byrne has already proved a dynamic Deputy Head and she and all our new staff members are welcomed in this annual report.

The year has been characterised by some other new developments: Drama at GCSE and A Level for the first time, and a wave of polished and challenging productions (and our first season of professional work in the Vanbrugh Theatre too); Richard Lunn's elite sports programme for our burgeoning band of internationals; the

first Arabic on the curriculum and the first Sixth Form Scholarships competed for (with thanks to Investec and The King's School Parents' Association). Above all, it has been characterised as ever by bright, capable and enthusiastic students, committed and inspirational staff, and supportive parents and Governors.

Chris Ramsey, Headmaster



# Hello and goodbye



Dr Jane Byrne



Dr Huw Jones



Clare Howdon



Clare Plass



Claire Ranson



Samantha Butler



Richard Higgins



Natalie Stevens



John Spellman

## Welcome to King's...

**DR JANE BYRNE** joined us in January 2014 from Manchester Grammar School, where she had been Head of Modern Languages. A Manchester graduate and PhD (her Doctorate on the novelist and philosopher Perec), she has also tutored and led expeditions and activities.

**DR HUW JONES** joined us in September to teach Biology. A graduate of Manchester University, he completed a PhD in Clinical Biochemistry before training as a teacher. Coaching football and acquiring and handling exotic animals such as our python have already been added to his CV.

**CLARE HOWDON** became the first Director of Drama at King's in September. Married to an Old King's Scholar, she has a first in Drama from the University of Kent, and within twelve months

has already given us *Punk Rock*, *The Tempest*, *Oh What a Lovely War* and GCSE and A Level Drama evenings.

**CLARE PLASS** joined the Mathematics Department this year, having taught with us on a temporary basis during the last year. She taught previously at Trent College and has already made an impression as a fine teacher of Maths at all levels.

**CLAIRE RANSON** also joined the Maths Department in the Michaelmas Term, having worked previously in Lancashire. She has made a great impression as a Removes tutor as well as a teacher of Maths in all parts of the School.

**SAMANTHA BUTLER** taught at Torquay Grammar School before arriving at King's to join the History and Politics Department this year. She too has

been a fine Removes tutor as well as a wonderful teacher of History and Politics.

**RICHARD HIGGINS** came in September to teach ICT and to take over as Head of Computing. He had been a Senior Leader in state schools in Manchester, and quickly established himself as a terrific teacher and tutor; he will join forces with Jake Warne in leading IT forward in the years to come.

**NATALIE STEVENS** taught in London and Dubai before joining the Junior School as Head of Music in September. She is a pianist who reached Diploma level at school and she is used to pioneering roles, having set up the music department from scratch at the Wellington Academy in Dubai. Her productions have already graced the Vanbrugh Theatre stage.

**JOHN SPELLMAN** also joined the Junior School in the autumn, having taught Mathematics and coached boys' games (co-ordinating both most recently) at St Bede's Prep School in Manchester. As a J3 tutor, teacher and coach he has already made his mark at King's.



Penny Mackay



Toby Hughes



Dawn Hearne



Jayne Sabio



Babette Shannon



Neil Shepherd



Michaela Wilson

## Farewell and all the best...

**PENNY MACKAY** joined the School in 1998 as Management Accountant and became Bursar in 2006. She has been by any standards an outstanding Bursar, guiding projects such as the Vanbrugh Theatre, the Sixth Form extension and most recently the Junior School Learning Centre, and providing strong, strategic vision and business acumen. What has distinguished her Bursarship even more though, has been her involvement with students' overseas trips, her leadership of expeditions to far-flung places and her genuine interest in the daily lives and experiences of others. She will be a hard act to follow.

**TOBY HUGHES** joined us as Head of Sixth Form in 2008. Within months he had established a reputation as a brilliant leader and manager, imaginative in his plans for the Sixth Form, and highly successful in motivating and championing

the students' plans. University successes have soared, results climbed, and the working atmosphere has been transformed, with no sacrifice of joy or good humour. He has directed two major musicals, coached cricket, taught Geography and found time to contribute innovatively to our development. To no-one's surprise he moves on to Assistant Headship, where he will surely not linger for long.

**DAWN HEARNE** has been Head of Learning Support, a teacher of History and English and a wonderful colleague for eleven years at King's. Generations of individual students have her to thank for establishing the Learning Support department, and for her brilliantly professional teaching of English. Dawn has been one of the first to champion technology, as well as one of the staunchest defenders of traditional values. She retires this year and we wish her well.

**JAYNE SABIO** has taught Spanish and French at King's since 1999 and leaves us to become Head of Modern Languages at Wellington College International, Tianjin. Her commitment to Spanish has been evident from rising numbers and successes, as well as the regular and much-appreciated exchanges and study trips to Spain. She has been a popular and trusted tutor as well as a fine colleague and we wish her and her family well in their exciting new lives.

**BABETTE SHANNON** has been part of our Modern Languages Department for ten years, initially as Assistante, latterly teaching French and Spanish. Many students have enjoyed and benefited from her sympathetic and wise teaching and we wish her well as she moves on to pursue her many other commitments.

**NEIL SHEPHERD** took over as Head of Mathematics five years ago, and quickly established a reputation as an exciting, zestful teacher and an imaginative and ambitious Head of Department. He instituted 'Maths Idol', the celebrity Maths Lecture series, raised numbers on Challenges, and irrepressibly championed Maths. Meanwhile a Film Club, staff band and tutor group also benefited from his enthusiasm, and he now moves on to King Edward's School, Birmingham, to take over one of the country's largest departments.

**MICHAELA WILSON** has been with us for just one year and is moving to a school nearer her home, after a year of significant commuting, much to our disappointment. She has been a fine, imaginative young teacher, gaining the trust and affection of students quickly, and bringing much to the School in a short time. We wish her well.





# Junior School

**A**S ALWAYS WE HAVE BEEN VERY BUSY in the Junior School during the last academic year, as pupils have been encouraged to grasp every opportunity presented to them.

14 pupils progressed to the regional final of the National Young Mathematicians Award, whilst Luke Mulholland (J4H) also reached the national final of the Primary Maths Challenge.

Pupils from J3 and J4 spent a morning in the company of bestselling author, Michelle Paver. We also received visits from local children's authors, Jon Mayhew and our very own David Whitley (OKS). Some 87 pupils entered the Extreme Reading competition. There were wonderful pictures of pupils reading in all sorts of strange conditions and positions, including in snow, sand and even under water!

Sport has always played a big part in the lives of Junior School pupils. This year was no exception and we have recorded a number of notable successes. At the Association of Junior Independent Schools' (AJIS) Swimming Gala, we recorded our highest number of finalists (15) and medallists (5). Special mention must go to Tom Hughes (J4P) who became AJIS backstroke champion for a third time and to Freya Beyeler (J3S) who secured a first place finish in the girls' backstroke event.

With Tom Hughes leading from the front, once again to become AJIS champion, we were able to record a resounding success at the AJIS cross-country event. The U11 boys took team silver and with both the U10 boys and the U11 girls being crowned champions, King's were comfortably the overall winners of

the competition. At the AJIS Indoor Athletics Championships, King's again performed extremely well, with a record number of medals overall and eight gold medal winners.

The girls' and boys' hockey teams both reached the North of England championships; both teams were eliminated at the semi-final stage in penalty shoot-outs. Only goal difference prevented the girls being champions of both the Cheshire Schools' and North West of England competitions.

For the first time since 1992, we won the AJIS Quiz competition, and King's took the team silver medal at the AJIS Chess Congress with Riyaan Yesudian (J4P) being crowned AJIS champion.

“...pupils have been encouraged to grasp every opportunity presented to them”

Simon Malone, Head of Junior School





the tutorial experience, embedding a new assessment procedure, reviewing our reporting procedures, raising spiritual awareness and delivering more effective differentiation.

With the start of the building programme to provide our new, state of the art Learning Centre, it really is an exciting time for us all.

**Simon Malone, Head of Junior School**

Special mention must be made of two internationals we have within our community: Sophie Williams (J4P) has represented Wales at dressage and Riyaan Yesudian (J4P) has represented England at chess.

The Spring Concert displayed the wide range of talent our pupils possess across the entire performing arts, and at this year's Chester Festival of Performing Arts, we achieved a record haul of medals, some 20 in total, including six first places.

The generosity of Junior School pupils (and their parents) never ceases to amaze us. At least 13 charities have been supported this year. A record amount of £3,397 was raised via our Readathon.

Behind the scenes we strive to raise the standard of what we do. Our priorities have included extending the iPad trial, reviewing the effectiveness of homework, examining





# Senior School



**M**Y FIRST TWO TERMS AT SCHOOL have shown King's to be a very vibrant place. Drama is developing very strongly in school and in December, members of our drama department performed the moving and disturbing play, *Punk Rock*. It was a brave production, confronting a number of the issues and pressures faced by many school pupils. We are proud that the cast will be taking the production to this year's Edinburgh festival. *Oh What a Lovely War* was the production performed in March and the young cast had the audience moved to tears at moments and in peals of laughter at others. Some of the cast members were honoured to win the opportunity to perform as a curtain raiser to the production of the show at the theatre in Stratford East, London as a result of their work demonstrating their understanding of the significance of the subject matter. Alongside our own productions, we have welcomed visiting

theatre companies to the Vanbrugh Theatre and enjoyed performances of *Romeo and Juliet* and Lorca's *Blood Wedding*.

Our music department has run an impressive series of lunchtime recitals at school and more formal events. Particularly noteworthy was the performance at St Werburgh's in May, where Schola Cantorum sang Haydn's *Nelson Mass*, joining forces with soloists from the RNCM and the singers of the Chester Chorale. Two of our musicians have achieved very high accolades this year; Tommy Metcalf (U6AM) is now qualified DipABRSM after passing his diploma with the Associated Board and Katie Pownall (L6JS) passed her diploma with Trinity College and is now ATSL.

Academically we have competed in Olympiads in every conceivable subject, and of course the sporting life of our school continues to thrive.







“...every pupil is nurtured to be the best and happiest they can be”

Jane Byrne, Deputy Head

On the river, our boys' 1st VIII are, without doubt, amongst the top rowers in the country, and our girls' 1st VIII won the Northern Head. Recent performances at the National Schools' Regatta showed a sustained level of success. We won three medals taking the club total to five medals over the three days. The J16 boys' coxless four finished third in the J16 coxless fours final, Harry Higginbottom (5EH), Dan Weatherly (5ET), John Barton (5ET) and Ben Stratton (SPN) winning their first medal at the Championships. The senior girls' coxless four won silver in the championship coxless fours: an excellent row from Sarah Lusher (L6KS), Maud Moir (L6BH), Olivia Rogerson (L6NH) and Zoe Soutter (L6JK). In the final event of the weekend, the boys' coxless four, Ralph Elsegood (U6HF), Jack Webber (U6DB), Toby Miller (U6DB) and Alex Slater (L6CC), matched the girls' performance, winning a silver medal in the boys' championship coxless fours.



Our girls' netball and hockey teams continue to win local and district competitions routinely and our boys' U16 hockey players were in the national last eight. At the end of the Lent term, Mr Ramsey read out a list of names of over 10 international sports players at assembly including Matt Willis. Matt, who is only in the Third Year (3RC), is the national schools' cross country champion and second best in the world!

Chess players have excelled this year. Fourteen students played in the county Megafinal with Susan Gorman (U6PW) winning the Under 18 girls' section and Rohan Yesudian (SHJJ) winning at Under 13 boys' level. Both will be competing in the national finals.

Two members of the RAF section of the CCF, Nicola Temple (L6CC) and Ffion Weaver (L6JS)

have won international exchange scholarships which they will take up this summer and we are immensely proud of all that has been achieved by our cadets this year.

Our charitable events continue to impress and the School united behind the fundraising campaigns for Sport Relief and the Gem appeal in March. Various events, including a course for the Sport Relief mile, raised a considerable sum for our chosen charities. A total of £15,000 has been raised this year.

Our students are extremely talented and their interests span a huge range. There will, of course, be many achievements we have not listed here but every student contributes to the rich experience of our lively and vibrant school.

Jane Byrne, Deputy Head





# Sixth Form

**T**HE 2013-14 ACADEMIC YEAR began with new records being broken; the best A Level results had just been achieved by the outgoing Upper Sixth and the new Lower Sixth was the largest on record.

Mrs Hollingworth and Mrs Chadwick took over the running of the Sixth Form during the Michaelmas term, while Mr Hughes was seconded to the Deputy Head's office. They did a superb job in supporting the UCAS applications for the Upper Sixth which resulted in eight Oxbridge offers, 16 Medicine offers, two Veterinary offers and an average of over 4.4 offers per student (excluding medics and vets) – another record!

Over 90% of students gained at least one offer from a Russell Group university. The new Head

of School team, led by the School's first female Head of School, Hayley Milner (U6HF), undertook their duties splendidly across the year. These duties included front-of-house for the new theatre programme created by the new Director of Drama, featuring a wonderful Sixth Form production of *Punk Rock* which will be performed at the Edinburgh Festival.

In music, there were tremendous concerts through the year, including the performance of an original concerto written by Tommy Metcalf (U6AM) based on Edgar Allan Poe's *The Raven*. Marissa Landy (L6NS) was selected for the National Youth Orchestra and both Tommy Metcalf and Katie Pownall (L6JS) achieved Diplomas.

The Charity Committee continued to raise money for a host of good causes through Children in

Need and Sport Relief, but also through a one-off concert in aid of typhoon victims in the Philippines. There was a range of performers headlined with *RHJS Collective* including Alex Jekov (U6AM), Owen Haylock (L6NH), Louis Bostock-Williams (U6AM), Urbi Sen (KS) (U6DB), Jessica Arnall (U6AM), Ananth Ranjit (KS) (U6AM), Tommy Metcalf (U6AM), Cameron Szerdy (KS) (U6JR) and Rudi Macloskey (U6AM).

In sport, students performed brilliantly for King's teams and beyond with George Nott (U6DB) gaining selection for England U18 rugby, Sara Ashworth (U6AM) undertaking trials for the British Eventing team and Alex Slater (L6CC) and Jack Webber (U6DB) being trialled for GB rowing.

**Toby Hughes, Head of Sixth Form**

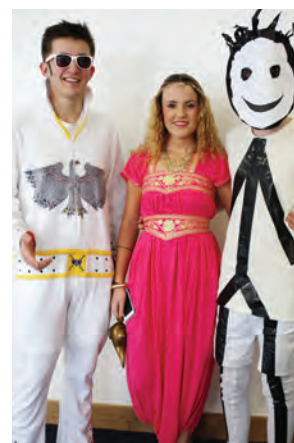






“A fantastic year group who have achieved record university offers alongside top performances in sport, music and drama.”

Toby Hughes, Head of Sixth Form



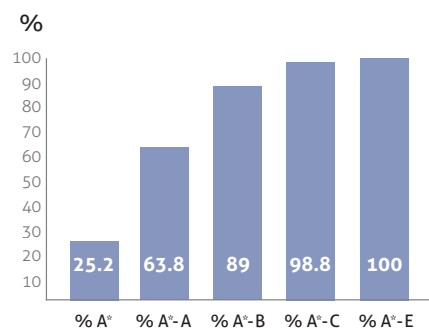


# Academic Results

## A Level results, 2013/14

Subject	Entry	A*	A	B	C	%A-E
Art	8	1	3	3	1	100
Biology	34	6	6	15	7	100
Business Studies	11		6	3	2	100
Chemistry	37	9	13	12	2	100
Computing	2		2			100
Classical Civilisation	4	2	1		1	100
Design Technology	9	7	1	1		100
Economics	27	5	12	10		100
English Language	13	2	7	3	1	100
English Literature	8	3	3	2		100
French	8		5	2	1	100
Geography	17	1	5	8	3	100
German	1			1		100
Government & Politics	9		5	3	1	100
History	14	4	6	3	1	100
History of Art	1			1		100
Maths	64	12	31	9	11	100
Further Maths	13	9	3			100
Music	3	1	2			100
Philosophy	4	2	1	1		100
Physical Education	3	1	2			100
Physics	37	20	8	6	2	100
Religious Studies	6		4	2		100
Spanish	4		4			100

### A Level result totals in %

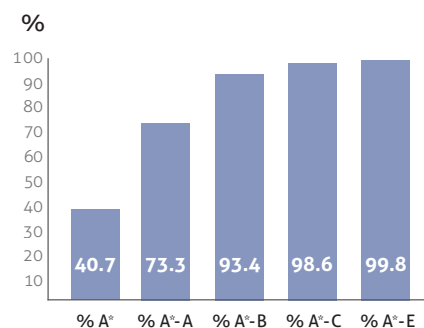


## GCSE results, 2013/14

Subject	Entry	A*	A	B	C	%A-E
Art	27	10	10	7		100
Biology	91	51	26	9	4	98.9
Business Studies & Economics	42		18	18	5	100
Chemistry	90	41	31	14	4	100
Classical Civilisation	20	2	6	6	6	100
Design Technology	22	7	5	9		100
Drama	5	3	2			100
English Language	114	36	44	28	5	100
English Literature	114	27	43	37	5	100
French	42	17	9	12	4	100
Geography	51	9	20	15	6	100
German	20	10	5	4		100
History	57	33	18	6		100
Information Technology	9	2	2	5		100
Latin	7	4	2		1	100
Mathematics	114	65	34	13	2	100
Music	9	3	6			100
Physical Education	4		3	1		100
Physics	103	53	28	13	4	99
Psychology*	8		5	3		100
Religious Studies	30	23	6	1		100
Spanish	56	25	15	7	8	100

\*Enrichment programme subject only (equivalent one lesson per week)

### GCSE result totals in %



### A Level

- 89% A\*-B grades represents our best ever performance and made us the top performing co-ed school in the North West, with only one other co-ed independent school north of Birmingham gaining better results
- 43% of our candidates gained three or more A\*/A grades
- Our Science results produced over 90% A\*-B grades
- Our girls gained 97% A\*-B in Sciences and 94% A\*-B overall

### GCSE

- Thirty students gained A\* or A grades in all nine of their GCSE entries
- Our girls gained 58% A\* grades and 89% A\* or A grades
- 49.7% of IGCSE grades were A\*

### Offers 2014

- Our average 'offers per candidate' excluding medical sciences was 4.41: our best ever (this has risen steadily from 3.6 five years ago. The national average is well below 3)
- Our eight Oxbridge place offers this year make a total of 91 over ten years
- 16 medical offers were made to our ten successful applicants
- 59% of all offers were to Russell Group universities
- 96 students (over 90%) received at least one Russell Group offer



# University Destinations of Leavers

University	Subject
ABERDEEN	Zoology
BANGOR	Accountancy
BRIGHTON	Biomedical Science
BATH	Architecture (Sandwich)
BATH	Mathematics
BATH	Mathematics
BATH	Business Administration (Sandwich)
BATH	International Management and Modern Languages - French
BATH	Modern Languages and European Studies (French and Spanish)
BATH	Mechanical Engineering (Sandwich)
BATH	Business Administration (Sandwich) – 2014
BIRMINGHAM	Medicine (5 years)
BIRMINGHAM CITY	Business Information Technology
BRISTOL	Psychology
BRISTOL	Medicine - MBChB Standard entry (5 years)
BRISTOL	French and Spanish (4 years)
BRISTOL	Religion and Theology
BRISTOL	Medicine - MBChB Standard entry (5 years)
BRISTOL	Veterinary Science
BRISTOL	Law
CAMBRIDGE	Natural Sciences
CAMBRIDGE	Mathematics
CAMBRIDGE	History
CARDIFF	Sociology
CARDIFF	Chemistry
CENTRAL ST MARTINS, LONDON	Product Design
DURHAM	Theology
DURHAM	History
DURHAM	Business and Management
DURHAM	General Engineering
DURHAM	Music
DURHAM	Business and Management
DURHAM	Economics
EDINBURGH	French and Linguistics
EDINBURGH	Economic History
EDINBURGH	Economics
GLASGOW	Economics

University	Subject
HULL MEDICAL SCHOOL	Medicine
IMPERIAL, LONDON	Mathematics
IMPERIAL, LONDON	Mechanical Engineering with a Year Abroad
IMPERIAL, LONDON	Aeronautical Engineering with a Year Abroad
IMPERIAL, LONDON	Computing
KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON	Mathematics and Philosophy
KEELE	Biomedical Science
LANCASTER	Management and Entrepreneurship
LANCASTER	Management (with a year's study abroad)
LANCASTER	Entrepreneurship (with Management)
LANCASTER	Geography
LANCASTER	Geography
LANCASTER	Fine Art
LANCASTER	Business Management
LEEDS	Geography
LEEDS	Mechanical Engineering
LEEDS	Civil and Environmental Engineering (International)
LEEDS	Mechanical Engineering
LEEDS	Zoology
LEEDS	Management with Marketing
LEEDS MET	Business and Management
LIVERPOOL	Engineering Foundation
LIVERPOOL JOHN MOORES	Primary Education
LIVERPOOL JOHN MOORES	Business Studies
LOUGHBOROUGH	Industrial Design and Technology
LOUGHBOROUGH	Architectural Engineering and Design Management
LOUGHBOROUGH	Industrial Design and Technology
MANCHESTER	Management (Marketing)
MANCHESTER	Management and Leisure
MANCHESTER	Law
MANCHESTER	Chemistry
MANCHESTER	Biomedical Sciences with Industrial Experience (4 years)
MANCHESTER	Modern and Middle Eastern History
MANCHESTER	Chemistry
NEWCASTLE	Architecture
NEWCASTLE	Mechanical Engineering with Bio-engineering
NEWCASTLE	Biomedical Sciences

University	Subject
NEWCASTLE	Philosophical Studies: Knowledge and Human Interests
NEWCASTLE	Business Management
NEWCASTLE	Physical Geography
NEWCASTLE	Accounting and Finance
NEWCASTLE	Fine Art
NOTTINGHAM	Chemistry with a Year in Industry
NOTTINGHAM	Physics with Theoretical Physics
OXFORD	English Language and Literature
OXFORD BROOKES	Geography and Physics
QUEEN MARY'S, LONDON	Economics, Finance and Management
READING	Consumer Behaviour Marketing
SHEFFIELD	Biomedical Science
SHEFFIELD	Mechanical Engineering with a Year in Industry
SHEFFIELD	Health and Human Science
SHEFFIELD	Medicine
SHEFFIELD	Politics
SOUTHAMPTON	French and German (4 years)
SURREY	Law
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON	Biological Science
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON	Astrophysics
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON	Economics
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON	Medicine (6 years)
WARWICK	English and Theatre Studies
WINCHESTER	Vocal and Choral Studies
YORK	Computer Science with Artificial Intelligence
YORK	History
YORK	Politics with International Relations
YORK	Politics

## The Times Top 30

78%

## The Times Top 20

54%

## The Times Top 10

27%

## Russell Group

69%

Bold text represents *The Times Top 30 Universities*.





Seated far left, Captain Robert Forbes Stanley-Creek, together with fellow Officers of the Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment.

# King's hero is finally honoured

AS THE CENTENARY OF THE OUTBREAK of the First World War approaches, reflection upon the value of commemoration gains additional poignancy. Now that this tragic conflict has passed from living memory, it seems an appropriate time to question the meaning of such commemoration. Between 2014 and 2018 the School will remember over fifty former pupils who fought and died in the Great War as well as several hundred who survived. The recently uncovered story of one former pupil offers a compelling response to questions about the value of commemoration.

Robert Forbes Stanley-Creek was born on 8 February 1878. He attended King's for a short while before joining The Queen's (Royal West

Surrey) Regiment on 4 January 1899, gaining promotion to captain on 2 August 1910. He embarked for France with 1st Battalion The Queen's on 13 August 1914. Although wounded at the First Battle of the Aisne on 14 September, he went on to see action at the Battle of Pilkem Inn (part of the First Battle of Ypres). Here, on 23 October, Stanley-Creek was awarded the Distinguished Service Order, a rare distinction for an officer of his rank '*for conspicuous gallantry and able leading in the attack*', before directing his men through the German lines in order to re-join the Battalion from which they had been separated. Sadly, it seems that he was not aware of his bravery decoration when he was reported 'missing' on 31 October during the Battle of Gheluvelt.

Stanley-Creek's story illustrates one of the greatest problems facing commemorative efforts during and immediately after the war: the Missing. Another Queensman records how Stanley-Creek 'would not surrender' at Gheluvelt. His last recorded communication was on 31 October, noting that the trench of the company adjacent to his had been captured. Thereafter, Stanley-Creek simply 'disappears', presumably his position having been overrun by the Germans.

The cruel uncertainty over his fate caused his wife to write in March 1917, 'I hope he may yet turn up again, although things look black'. This very understandable hope perhaps prevented her from reporting the 'fact' of her husband's death to the School. This would explain why his name

was not placed on the School's Roll of Honour. This sense of confusion was an inescapable consequence of the unprecedented scale of loss generated by the war. Of the 1,000 men of Stanley-Creek's battalion who landed in France in 1914 only seventeen would survive to see the Armistice.

Losses so great demanded National Remembrance. The government took over responsibility for the commemoration of the dead. The demand for remembrance by the families of the Fallen after the First World War led to the construction of cemeteries and memorials, the most famous being the Cenotaph. This focus of national remembrance perhaps obscures the fact that individuals are commemorated by name,





**Captain Robert Forbes Stanley-Creek**

one of the foundation pillars of the War Graves Commission. This sense of the individual loss is emphasised by the fact that only five per cent of memorials list names by rank, communicating a focus upon individual, as opposed to military or collective, sacrifice. Unique to the Commonwealth was this sense of family loss rather than the German approach which was Death for the Fatherland.

Stanley-Creek was not just a captain in the army but, amongst other things, a husband, a father and a keen horse-rider. Essentially, however, he was an individual. The current enthusiasm for commemoration, entirely well placed, has allowed for the uncovering of individual stories, localising and personalising remembrance so that memories of people like Stanley-Creek may be preserved,

along with an appreciation of the human dimension of the Great War.

Stanley-Creek's name is on the Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing in Ypres. At the opening ceremony in 1927, General Plumer noted that 'One of the most tragic features of the Great War was the number of casualties reported as "Missing, believed killed".' He contended that recognising their sacrifices on the memorial might, to some extent, alleviate the 'void' caused by the lack of formal graves. This year, exactly one hundred years since his death, Stanley-Creek's name will at last be added to the School's Roll of Honour. When it is, it will be possible to say, as General Plumer did, 'He is not missing; he is here.'

**Jessica Guest, Upper Sixth Form student**



“He is not missing; he is here.”

General Herbert Plumer



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