



THE KING'S SCHOOL
CHESTER

King's eye

A review of 2010/11



The King's School

Colouring their lives forever...

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An introduction from the Headmaster

The academic year commenced with the Main Hall under scaffolding as the Theatre project began: at the end of the year we have the wonderful Vanbrugh Theatre, formally opened in June and symbolic in a way of the School's unity and purpose. Once again from September, four year groups will be able to meet for Assemblies; more importantly, students' work in performance of all kinds will have a new and first rate home in this, one of Chester's finest venues. Sir John Vanbrugh himself, a former pupil of some four centuries ago, was a typical Old King's Scholar: lively, creative (he designed palaces as well as writing plays), resourceful and clever. His was the obvious name to choose, and we like to think his qualities live on in King's students today.

A lot of nonsense is written about 'all round education' - too often code for watering down of standards. Not at King's. We believe in sport, music, debating and all the dozens of activities which fill these pages, not because they replace academic achievement but because they support and complement it. It is rather appropriate that our guest speaker at Prizegiving therefore is Ed Smith, Cambridge scholar, economic journalist, writer and former England cricketer.

Such all-round ability has been on display this year in the achievements of many students. From the 12 Oxbridge successes, every one of whom has significant co-curricular achievements to their name, to the musicians who have given Beethoven symphonies and major choral works to audiences and congregations, to the actors and debaters and MUN participants who have won plaudits once again, to Army and RAF scholars, to award-winning scientists and of course sportsmen and women of every kind. We are proud of the sharp, developing minds, the sporting and creative prowess and the knowledge and skills we help to develop. King's students are highly sought after by universities. They are also good company, thoughtful and work well together.

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



Chris Lawson

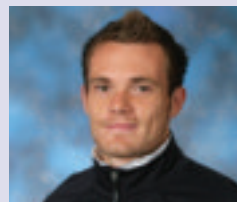
Welcome



Mr Robert Aldridge
Head of English



Mr Lee Parkes
Biology



Mr Simon Egerton
Physical Education



Mr Rob Irving
RS and Philosophy

A number of colleagues took on new responsibilities this year: **Mr Chadwick** and **Mrs Hollingworth** took over as Assistant Heads of Sixth Form, and **Mr Heap**, **Ms Brown**, **Mr Hornby** and **Mrs Sumner** as Heads of Year. We also welcomed **Mr Robert Aldridge** as Head of English, **Mr Lee Parkes** to the Biology Department, **Mr Simon Egerton** to the PE Department and **Mr Rob Irving** OKS to the RS and Philosophy Department.

Farewell

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



Mr David Yalland

retires after 15 years as Head of Physics. The Physics department has been phenomenally successful under his leadership, with regular Olympiad successes, fine results and consistently high numbers. It is perhaps fitting that his final crop of Upper 6th students are amongst the most talented, with a dozen Oxbridge scientists amongst them. He has, too, been a great football coach and a fine colleague. He will be greatly missed at King's by students and staff alike.



Mr Robert Irving

has been with us for a one-year contract: as a former pupil he has fitted in as well as one would expect, and has been a popular, lively teacher and fine rowing coach; we wish him the best of luck in his future career.



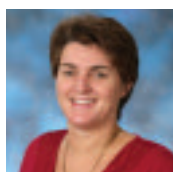
Mrs Catherine Hill

began her King's career in the Mathematics Department in 1989. She has been a fine tutor, especially of Sixth Form students, whose help with UCAS applications and the like has been hugely valued. She has been a much respected teacher of Maths to the highest levels and Deputy Head of Maths to two successive Heads of Department, and left us at Christmas to take a position as Head of Maths elsewhere.



Mr Tim Keeley

joined us in 1985 to teach Biology and took over as Head of Department in 1988. He introduced the popular Biodiversity trips, led the department to consistently excellent results and coached hockey teams in his earlier years too.



Mrs Alison Rourke

leaves us after four years teaching Modern Languages. She has been a versatile and popular teacher, led trips to northern France and taught both in Junior and Senior Schools. We wish her well.



Mr Martin Goff

leaves us much too soon, to join the English Department at The Grange School. His brief leadership of Religious Studies and Philosophy has seen continued popularity and success in the department, and his cricket coaching has led the U15 side to new heights this term, as they were crowned champions of the North of England. He will be much missed.

Academic report

Much of the prelude to the publication of examination results last Summer was taken up with discussion in the media over the new A* grade at A level. Whilst some academics expressed the view that a new higher mark should test something additional, rather than simply rewarding higher exam percentages, all agree that one obvious benefit of the A* was to provide further motivation for those students who might already have felt secure of an A grade given their performance in past modules. To gain an A*, students must achieve 80% overall but 90% in each of their A2 modules, therefore rewarding the most talented and consistently hard working students.

It was also the first year of the Extended Project at King's. This is a new qualification for A level students providing a focus for independent research in a topic of their own choosing which has benefitted many students in terms of university applications as well as improving their study skills.

King's students took full advantage of these new opportunities, with over a fifth of the total A level results being graded at A* and with 22 completed Extended Projects, most of which were awarded A* or A grades. Special mention must be given to James Carr and Emma Walker, both of whom excelled in gaining five A* grades, with James also achieving an A* in his Extended Project, and Sam Lewis,

who also secured five A level passes, all at A* or A grades. A further five students gained A* and A grades in four subjects; Sophie Clough (three at A*), Will Moreland (three at A*), Jack Webb (three at A*), Charlotte Gillies and Isabel Hughes, and two others achieved A* grades in their three subjects; Matthew Ireland and James Oldman.

There were some excellent performances in AS level exams too with our current Upper Sixth achieving a record number of A grades. It has been a fine year for this group in other ways, with 12 students (plus one 2010 school leaver) receiving offers of university places at Oxford or Cambridge, another record of recent years. They were Hiroshi Amako, Edward Andrade, Siobhan Barnard, Matt Chadwick, Adam Davies, Joe Dillamore, Isabel Hughes (leaver 2010), Peter Johnstone, Tom Menzies, Benjamin Moss, Ed Pilkington and Oliver Tattersall.

The A* success story continued at GCSE, with 41% of entries being awarded the highest grade, narrowly missing the record of the previous year. Six students gained a full complement of 10 A* grades: Miriam Bowen, Kate Coppack, Felicity Elsegood (KS), Laura Haylock, Luke Howarth and Henry Crouch-Smith.

We congratulate these and all students on their achievements.

Pastoral report

Caring is not merely reactive; coping with difficulties and problems, but is positive - enabling a rewarding experience of life, an understanding of others and a sensitive exploration of one's self. What do I want to make of myself and what do I have to work with? More importantly, a recognition that education should be conceived of as life and not merely a preparation for life. It is abundantly clear therefore that pastoral care is a key element in any educational environment.

So how have King's set about achieving this in the last 12 months?

Information evenings set the tone for the year with Head of Years (more about them later) outlining the year ahead for those in their care. Key to all of these presentations was adherence to the School's values, good organisation and industry.

The students also began to meet as a full School Council during this academic year under the guidance of Head of School, Peter Johnstone (U6), so building on long standing year group committees which continue to meet.

Removes began the year telling their tutors 'All About Me' and discovering even more about themselves at Manor Adventure. Mrs Gareth was impressed by their enthusiastic start to the year and this promise has continued to shine. Settling in is important and further supported by Sixth Form mentors who see their mentees on a fortnightly basis.

In the Shells a new Head of Year, Mrs Sumner, took the reins and soon had the students thinking and acting as a team with her innovative inter-form competition.

Every student has been involved and Fourth and Fifth Year students have provided further support.

Mr Hornby gained a free transfer to the Third Year moving with a familiar cohort of students.

In the Michaelmas term, e-safety and in particular safe social networking was highlighted as part of National Anti-bullying week. This was followed by a series of screen saver messages, posters designed by the students and a new Acceptable Use Policy to reinforce safe practice. Progress has been made, but the battle is not yet won. In the Summer term, the ever popular Ullswater outdoor education week allowed the type of independent personal development that cements self-esteem as well as long-standing friendships.

Ms Brown took over the running of the Fourth Year. This is a year for consolidation of knowledge and personal growth. Always a challenge, the students have shown themselves to be resilient, responsive and reliable. Their work as 'prefects' in the absence of more senior students confirmed their real potential.

Again a new Head of Year in the Fifth Year, Mr Heap, completed the change in personnel. His past experience as a tutor and ability to coach the best out of students have been utilised to the full in a year when students face increasing demands in a competitive academic world. With this task complete, the ambitious, benevolent and cooperative students produced by this considered five year process should be well placed to face the challenges of Sixth Form life.

Travel

King's students are definitely going places... from The Big Apple to an expedition across Jordan, enroute to the ancient city of Petra.



UK trips

Ullswater (1)



At the end of June, nine teachers and 106 students from the Third Year travelled to Outward Bound, Ullswater for six days of activity, based at Watermillock on the west side of the lake. This trip for the whole Year group has become a central part of a King's education.

Before they left the students were given something to consider. First, Outward Bound's five Rs: Respect, Reliability, Resourcefulness, Resilience, Responsibility. Secondly, a quote from Kurt Hahn, co-founder of Outward Bound: "We are all better than we know; if only we can be brought to realise this, we may never again be prepared to settle for anything less." And finally a quote from Arno Ilgner: "If you slip into a rigid comfort zone then you are dying - slowly, but still dying."

What occurred over the following six days, including a two-day expedition and shorter, high adrenaline activities such as rock climbing, allowed all the students to investigate their preconceptions about themselves. There were also cerebral activities, but even these led to non-sedentary outcomes. Overall, the students were certainly challenged and all were able to fulfil the six Rs in many ways. The students' behaviour was exemplary and although this is something that Outward Bound staff have come to expect from King's students, it is not something that the School takes for granted. It was a tremendous week, but who knows 2011 may be even better.

Manor Adventure (2)



Early in September, the Removes made their annual pilgrimage to the Manor Adventure Centre in Craven Arms, Shropshire for three days of outdoor activities and team building. The whole year group, accompanied by tutors and Head of Year, arrived at the Centre eager to take part in a variety of challenging and exciting activities. The underground maze thrilled and terrified in equal amounts and students enjoyed their return to the fresh air after their time wading through the muddy water in the low, dark passageways.

Another favourite activity was the confidence course, high in the trees, where students travelled from tree to tree via a series of ropes, beams and pulleys. The teachers engaged in serious competition on the shooting range and all enjoyed the excitement of the abseil tower. The Removes worked very well together and made new friends in the rural setting. It was a great trip.

Henley and Devon Rowing Tour (3 & 4)



The senior squad girls spent a week in Henley, the home of rowing, to prepare for the Summer regatta calendar. The conditions were fantastic as the crews took full advantage of warm weather and flat water. The camp was lucky to be hosted by the Leander club and boating from such a prestigious club was a unique experience for many of the girls. Camp accommodation was to be found at the local static home park. After four days of hard training in Henley the girls raced Cardiff University and U.W.E. on Dorney lake, the venue for the 2012 Olympic games. The improvements were clear to see as the crews powered away from their opposition, the most impressive being the newly formed 1st VIII which rowed with confidence. All 24 girls enjoyed the experience and the opportunity to train in such a unique venue and returned with experience to race in the Summer regatta calendar.

The rowing camp in Devon welcomed 35 students from the J14 squad and five coaches. With some of the best weather in April for many years the J14 squad were blessed with flat water and great conditions all week. 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 competed at the National Schools' Championships in May. Staying in a youth hostel in a small Devon town also gave the squad a chance to bond. 35 students returned from a wonderful training camp as a team and many tales to tell over the coming months.

Model United Nations - Cheadle Hulme School Conference (5)



Fourth Year to Upper Sixth Form students represented the School in fine style at a two-day Model United Nations conference held at Cheadle Hulme School in October. All students rose magnificently to the challenge. A handful of students from each Committee is recognised at the Award Ceremony to reflect the quality of their contribution towards debate and the effectiveness of their speech-making.

Kallum Marsden (L6) representing North Korea was a 'Highly Commended' Delegate at his first conference which is very impressive. Also 'Commended' were: Frederick Norman (L6) for North Korea, James Ellis (U6) for Senegal and Luke Howarth (L6) (KS) also for Senegal.

Jack Webber, our only delegate from the Fourth Year, stormed the Conference, loving the challenge of the debate, and was recognised as the Best Young Delegate in his Committee which debated issues of Ecology and the Environment. This is the first time a delegate from King's has achieved this accolade.



World trips

Ghent Rowing Tour (1)



The Senior Training Camp involved 55 boys from the top three squads in the club, the J15, J16 and senior squad. The Camp began with a coach journey to Belgium followed by Ghent International Regatta the day after arriving. The club returned with eight crew medals and many more excellent performances, with every athlete competing in at least one event each day, many of the squad competing in up to four events.

The last race of the Regatta saw the 1st VIII crowned the Junior Flemish National Champions in a nail biting finish. Four days of training followed the Regatta in which every athlete pushed themselves on a lake that basked in glorious continental spring sunshine. All the crews returned ready for the Summer regatta calendar and ready for a few days recovery after a successful Training Camp.

CERN (2)



The Physics department's visit to CERN, the European Laboratory for Particle Physics, took place this year in December and 24 Upper Sixth Form students travelled, accompanied by Dr. Bosworth and Mrs Gareh. Following a delayed departure due to fog, a hastily rearranged program had to be fitted into a single day, beginning with a conference which gave an overview of the structure of CERN, a unique international organisation and its 54-year history. The party visited the control room of the ATLAS experiment and also toured the magnet testing facility, seeing the huge devices which will focus and steer the particles around the collider. The guided tour was completed in the computing centre where CERN is beginning to store and process a volume of data which ultimately will correspond to 1% of the information generated globally each year. A tour of the Microcosm rounded off the visit, which has interactive demonstrations and exhibits of past experiments.

Leipzig Exchange (3)



In April, ten students from the Third, Fourth and Fifth Years set out for an eight-day language exchange visit to Leipzig. As well as spending time with their host family, the students took part in a variety of visits including tours of Berlin, Magdeburg and, of course, Leipzig.

The group also spent some time at the Evangelisches Schulzentrum, Leipzig, where they attended a variety of lessons with their exchange partners. The exchange was greatly enjoyed by all and proved to be an enriching social, cultural and linguistic experience.

Berlin (4)



18 A level students accompanied by four members of staff spent five packed days in Berlin over October half term. Guided by Colonel Piers Storie-Pugh OBE and Major Mike Cartwright, all of the party left with heads spinning, full of images and impressions of this constantly evolving city.

Stark reminders of Berlin's pivotal role in 20th century events were brought home to everyone on a sobering walking tour of Third Reich sites. Major Cartwright guided the group superbly around Sachsenhausen concentration camp and the quite staggering Soviet memorial to troops killed in the Battle of Berlin at Treptower Park. The group toured Normannenstrasse, the former Headquarters of the Stasi, as well as visiting Hohenschönhausen, the former prison used by the Stasi until 1989. 18th and 19th century German history was sampled in Potsdam, a delightful oasis of calm away from the city.

New York (5)



During October half term, 25 fabulous Fifth and Sixth Year artists and art historians enjoyed five incredible days in New York. By day, the sun shone as the group took in the sights and at night, when the neon lights shone even brighter than our nearest star, they soaked up the exciting and vibrant atmosphere.

New York is there as a backdrop to so many films and TV programmes, it is an amazing city and people are all familiar with it in so many ways. Nevertheless, being there and surrounded by the sounds, smells and the sight of it is an overwhelming experience. Just being at Newark airport and looking across to Manhattan was enough to raise the excitement levels to maximum.

The first excursion after checking in was to walk the 50 metres from the hotel to the Empire State Building and then the elevator up the 80+ floors to take in the view, with the students taking turns to talk about a building or some art. So on this occasion, one of our art historians set the tone for the trip and spoke eloquently and fluently about the building. By the end of her address a crowd of several other tourists stood, listened and applauded too.



The food hall at Grand Central Station for something to eat, ("do you want extra fries with your fries, sir?") Times Square later that night, the Museum of Modern Art, 5th avenue, the Met Museum, the subway to Brooklyn then back across Brooklyn Bridge to Lower Manhattan, down town to Ground Zero, Central Park, the Guggenheim Museum and everywhere in between. Food was taken "to go" and feet were massaged later at night back at the hotel.

Armed with cameras and an A5 sketchbook, everyone was constantly wide-eyed and eager to record everything from street signs, the taxis, neon lights and, of course the art and the architecture. The museums are incredible and contain the best of everything you've ever known and the group were fortunate to see just so much that it was quite overwhelming. The art historians were buzzing with excitement and rushed from one work of art to another and then another, and then another for hours on end. Artists drew constantly and quickly in their sketchbooks and everyone took hundreds of photographs.

Nobody wanted to leave. New York has so much to see, and so much to take in. The city that never sleeps is truly remarkable; it made a huge impact on our students and has continued to do so in the work they produced on their return.



The Hague - Hockey Tour (6)



Following a very successful Senior tour to The Hague, it was decided to take a more Junior side made of Removes, Shells and Thirds over the Easter break. The tour centred around one of the most respected hockey clubs in the world, HGC, who hosted the team over four days, which included training and games. The team faced high level Dutch opposition in the form of HGC (1-5), Rotterdam (3-2) and Pijnacker (1-6).

Although the team struggled against HGC and Pijnacker who boasted six U14 teams of which King's played the 1st teams, they competed extremely well and most importantly, improved and enjoyed the experience. The tour also included a sight-seeing trip of The Hague and Delft along with bowling, laser quest and cinema trips. All the clubs played during the visit were hugely complimentary of the students and the School. King's have been invited to return next year with a senior team.

Cork Jazz Music Festival (7)



During the October half term, The King's School Big Band travelled to Ireland to perform at the world famous Cork Jazz Festival. King's students played alongside legends such as Herbie Hancock, Steve Winwood, Maceo Parker and The Brand New Heavies.

The band gave two superb concerts, firstly at The Atrium at The Clarion Hotel, and then to several hundred people at the heart of the festival - The Ballroom at the Gresham Metropole Hotel, as part of the Guinness Festival Club.

As well as the performances, members of the band took part in a wide range of workshops and masterclasses with jazz experts Charles McPherson, Guillermo Rozenhuter and Bill Carrothers. They went to performances by Herbie Hancock, Jason Moran and the incredible One O'Clock Lab Band from the University of North Texas.

The Hague International Model United Nations (THIMUN) (8)



In January, seven Upper and Lower Sixth Formers from King's attended the annual Model United Nations conference at The Hague. This year King's were appointed as the delegation from Cyprus and spoke from this perspective. The delegation was fronted by James Ellis (U6) who spoke with confidence and authority and guided the team through the choppy diplomatic waters with skill.

Tim Pemberton (U6) achieved the rare feat of having a resolution passed in committee in successive years and Kallum Marsden (L6) excelled in his first THIMUN. Alex Austen (U6) was persuasive in the lobbies and effective on the floor and all the delegates learned much about the diplomatic process and how to work with others during the course of the conference.

Canada Expedition (9)



In the Summer of 2010, two groups of students from the Shells and Third Years took part in a 16-day personal development expedition to Canada, having spent the previous 18 months team building and fundraising to take part in the trip. The teams arrived in Toronto and headed by train to the Algonquin National Park for a six-day canoe trip across the lakes in the Park, camping on islands overnight, cooking over log fires, learning to fish, swimming in the lakes and learning the delicate art of balancing canoes on their heads over the many portages to move from lake to lake. Both groups then helped in a project to open up overgrown trails in the Park to encourage more tourism in the area, certainly not easy work, before heading back to explore the sights in Toronto including the CN Tower and a trip out to Niagara Falls.

Côte d'Opale (10)



During the October half term, 28 students from Shells and Third Years, accompanied by five members of staff, travelled to Stella Plage near Le Touquet in Normandy. They stayed in the Stella Maris Holiday Village, where the local cuisine was plentiful and delicious.

There was a trip to a local bakery to try croissant-making, followed by a visit to a chocolate factory to learn about the process of making chocolate and, of course, a visit to the Snail Farm. The group visited the small market town of Montreuil, immortalised by Victor Hugo in his novel *Les Misérables*: it is a small walled town with magnificent views over the surrounding countryside. Students enjoyed practising their French by ordering coffee in the small cafés. On the second day the group visited the market in Le Touquet, where there were plenty of opportunities to buy souvenirs and food. The day also included bowling and a visit to a local hypermarket. On the Sunday morning, the group stopped at Etaples cemetery - the biggest British war cemetery in Northern France. A wreath was placed on behalf of the School. Students enjoyed the Aquarium in Boulogne, with a huge variety of fish including sharks and sting rays.

It was a wonderful trip enjoyed by students and staff alike. Notably, Mrs Rourke was most impressed by the students' enthusiasm and willingness to practise their French.

Jordan Expedition (11)



In October, 24 fortunate students from the Shells, Thirds and Fourth Years took part in a week-long personal development expedition to Jordan. Jordan is a country rich in culture and history with ruined Roman cities, Crusader castles, desert citadels and powerful biblical sites. The students visited Petra, a vast unique city hewn into sheer rock more than 2000 years ago, they also trekked through the mountain trails of the Dana Nature Reserve exploring the waterfalls and caves, drove in 4x4s through the Wadi Rum desert before sleeping out overnight under the stars and riding camels back out, snorkelled on the coral reefs of the Red Sea and finally browsed the markets of Amman haggling for souvenirs to bring back home. It was truly an amazing experience for all those involved.



Departments

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

English



Students at King's have had many opportunities to extend their cultural experience and go on educational and recreational theatre trips organised by the English Department this year. Four visits to see Shakespeare classics sold out: from the delightfully energetic productions of *The Comedy of Errors* and *Taming of the Shrew*, to the macabre violence of *Richard III* and brooding procrastination and pain of *Hamlet*. A Sixth Form trip to see Brian Friel's *Dancing at Lughnasa* at Clwyd Theatr Cymru was both entertaining and useful, feeding into their coursework unit on Irish Literature; this trip was followed by an in-School practical session run by production's choreographer!

Other trips included a very popular visit to Bradford Media Museum, where students took part in a number of advertising workshops. Creativity and technology combined when students were given the opportunity to record and edit their own short television advert for the museum and on their return these were shown in assembly.

Maths



The Mathematics department started a series of after-school lectures that pushed beyond the syllabus in the Michaelmas term, which an average of 30 students attended every fortnight. Former pupil and prominent Mathematician, Rob Eastaway, showed students 'How to Win a Maths bet in the Pub', whilst a trip to Liverpool allowed us to hear Stand-Up Mathematician, Matt Parker marvellously show us all the hidden Maths gags in the Simpsons. Back in School, Mr Shepherd and Mr Ward gave talks about infinity, the financial meltdown, Bad Stats and Chaos Theory. This popular feature will return next year.

Once again, King's entered the Junior and Intermediate Maths Challenges leading to recognition of good problem solving, where the top Mathematicians in the country are invited to compete in European and even International events. We are still awaiting results from the Junior Challenge sat by the top Shells students and a few Removes students, but the Intermediate Challenge (Fifths) saw great success (19 gold certificates in Fifths and four in Fourths) and led to Sean Telford (KS) and Matthew Temple being selected for the Olympiad round, a superb achievement.



Further to this, Jonathan Verity, Jeremy Telford, Aaron Williams, William Marshall, Matthew Hill, Ben Hur Johnson (KS), Rachael Alcock and uniquely in Fourth Year, Eleanor Barnard (KS) were selected for the Kangaroo (European) round with Jeremy and Jonathan achieving certificates of merit.

Physics



Last October, King's was one of 38 teams to enter the Annual Liverpool Physics Olympics at the University's Physics Department. Such was the level of interest from the Sixth Form that King's received special dispensation to enter two teams. One of the two teams consisted of Ben Moss, James Edholm, Oliver Tattersall and Matthew Chadwick (U6). They gained a very creditable second place in the theoretical exercise that ran throughout the day. The other King's team of Lewis Ankers, James Ellis, Graham Bendall and Tom Menzies (U6) came first in that theoretical exercise and one other practical task to finish the day in overall second place.

Last Summer, five Lower Sixth Form students took part in four week Summer Schools. These were either organised privately or through the Nuffield

Foundation. Matthew Chadwick (U6) spent his time working with a chemical engineer in readiness for his university course, whilst James Edholm (U6) visited OptTIC in St. Asaph for a second year to work with lasers.

Graham Bendall and Siobhan Barnard received Nuffield Bursaries allowing them to work with Liverpool University on New Materials in the Aeronautical industry and Mathematical research respectively. Ben Moss used his Nuffield Bursary to work at OptTIC with lasers.

All Nuffield students presented their projects at the World Museum in Liverpool where they received CREST Awards and Ben was invited to take his project to London for the Big Bang exhibition in March of this year, finally being placed in the top five of the country.

A number of Lower Sixth Form students accepted the invitation to apply for Headstart courses through the Physics department for the Summer of 2010. These week-long courses at most of the top universities give an introduction to what students can expect from a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) course at a university. For the first time, two of our students were accepted onto the Materials Science course at Cambridge.

Once again in 2011, the opportunities offered by Headstart courses have been widely accepted by this year's Lower Sixth.

The Physics Olympiad took place in March 2011. 22 students opted to take the first paper with a record eleven qualifying for Round two. Of these, all eleven received a commendation, with Siobhan Barnard (U6) coming top. Also, five students from the Lower Sixth took part in the AS Physics challenges, all received a Bronze Award.

Biology



The Biology department was delighted with its success in winning a top award in the 2010 Good Schools Guide A level Awards. The award is presented for 'the best results at A level achieved by Girls taking Biology at an English Independent School'. The awards are made on the basis of A level results for the three years 2007, 2008 and 2009 combined, and in particular on the basis of the popularity of each subject relative to similar schools, and of the success that students achieve relative to the other examinations that they take. The award highlights excellent teaching and learning in individual subjects.

History



An extensive programme of guest lectures by professional historians has been well attended and much appreciated by Sixth Form historians. The series commenced with Professor Kevern Verney (Edge Hill University), a specialist on African-American civil rights and later in the Michaelmas term Professor Stefan Berger (Manchester) returned to King's to speak on the fall of the Weimar Republic and the collapse of the German Democratic Republic.

The focus then switched to the 18th and 19th centuries, with lectures on the collapse of the constitutional monarchy in France (1789-92) by Professor Malcolm Crook (Keele University) and the downfall of Napoleon by Professor Charles Esdaile (Liverpool University). Recently, Emeritus Professor Eric Evans (Lancaster University) spoke on Chartism and, as a former exam board chief examiner, gave students plenty of insights into examination technique. The quality of all these lectures has been extremely high, preparing students not only for A level examinations but also for undergraduate history.

Music



A level and GCSE results were once again excellent this year, with 100% A/B grades at A level in both Music and Music Technology, and 100% A*-B grades at GCSE. King's students have also continued to do well in their Associated Board and Trinity Guildhall music examinations. There has been another increase in the number of students sitting practical examinations, with Hiroshi Amako (U6, voice, his third Grade 8 distinction), Lewis Ankers (U6, clarinet), Terence Au (5ths, violin, with distinction), Ben Cuffin-Munday (U6, clarinet), William Everett (U6, alto saxophone), Zoe Malkin (L6, piano), Elizabeth Roberts (U6, voice), Eleanor Sowden (U6, voice) and Jeremy Telford (5ths, violoncello, with distinction) all successfully passing their Grade 8 examinations during the course of the year. In addition, Andrew Fyfe (U6) has gained his ATCL diploma (Associate of Trinity College of Music, London) in flute, passing with distinction, and Selim Ungut (L6) has passed his DipABRSM diploma (Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music) with distinction in piano. The standard required for these diplomas is equivalent to that expected at the end of first year study at a conservatoire. He joins a growing number of students at King's who



are progressing beyond Grade 8 level and successfully achieving higher qualifications.

It has been another immensely busy and successful music year, with highlights that include three Choral Evensong services at Chester Cathedral, high quality performances of substantial works such as Bach's *Concerto in E for Violin and Strings* (Hiroshi Amako, soloist and director), Beethoven's *Symphony No. 1* and *Duruflé's Requiem*, as well as fine performances by the Big Band who also visited the Cork Jazz Festival. In September, the Chamber Choir joined with Chester Cathedral Choir to perform several movements of Mozart's *Missa Brevis in F* at the termly King's Eucharist service. In July, the School Choir, under the direction of Ms Kath Andrews, took part for the first time in the Senior Children's Choir competition at the prestigious Llangollen International Eisteddfod.

The King's School Commemoration Service held in the Cathedral in October saw a very special piece of music being performed for the first time. Involving two former King's Directors of Music, the piece was written by Barry Ball, who headed the Music Department at King's until his retirement in 2004. The piece, *Jubilate Deo*, was composed in honour of the 50th Anniversary of the School's move to the current Wrexham Road site. It was performed by the Schola Cantorum, directed by current Director of Music, Mr Philip Robinson and accompanied on the organ by the previous Director of Music, Mr James Millard. This is the first time all three King's Directors of Music have collaborated in what was a unique occasion.

There has been a further increase in the number of ensembles taking place in the Music School, with a newly formed Early Music Consort and a Sixth Form Choir directed by Hiroshi Amako, who has been awarded a Choral Scholarship to read Music at Trinity College, Cambridge. Both of these

groups took part in the highly successful Vanbrugh Theatre Opening Festival, a fortnight that included a huge variety of concerts and other events to celebrate the opening of the new theatre.

The Music Department has continued the tradition of inviting high quality musicians to visit King's, with the third annual masterclass by renowned pianist John Gough. King's students have performed extensively in the local community, giving concerts at St. Werburgh's Catholic Church, the St. Mary's Centre, Holy Trinity Church in Blacon, Eaton Hall and Chester Cathedral. In addition, a substantial amount of money has been raised for charity during the course of the year, notably over £300 from a series of performances in December, two concerts for the Chester Lions, a concert in aid of the Tarporley War Memorial Hospital, organised by Edward Andrade (U6) and £300 for the Red Cross Japan Tsunami Appeal at a Chamber Music Concert directed by Hiroshi Amako.

King's students have continued to represent the School in both regional and national ensembles; in addition to several students who are members of the Hallé Youth Orchestra, Hallé Youth Choir and Cheshire Youth Orchestra, Eleanor Sowden (U6) gained a place in the National Youth Choir of Great Britain and Helena Cooke (L6) in the National Youth Training Choir. Hiroshi Amako has again been a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Wales. Joseph Bentley (U6) also successfully auditioned for both the National Youth Brass Band of Wales and National Youth Jazz Wales.

King's continues to provide several choristers to Chester Cathedral as well as other cathedral and church choirs in the area, and Sebastian Fayle (U6) has been appointed as one of the Alto Choral Scholars at Chester. Selim Ungut has continued to give a series of recitals in the local area, performing at Chester Town Hall and the Rhyl Music Club, as well as giving a 30 minute solo recital at King's. Solo recitals were also given by Hiroshi Amako (voice, violin and piano) and Andrew Fyfe (flute). In May, five of the School's most advanced instrumentalists were invited to play with the Chetham's School of Music Symphony Orchestra in a rehearsal and performance of Tchaikovsky's *Second Piano Concerto* with the soloist Simon Trpčeski.

Art



The Art department celebrated several student successes this year. Three students were selected as finalists in the 'Living Edge' Magazine Schools' Art Competition: Kitty Abberton (Thirds) in the U14 category, Sally James (L6) in the U16s and Andy Walton (U16) in the U18s. The three pieces demonstrate the breadth of skills and approaches that students are encouraged to experience in Art at King's: Kitty's small and skilful textile collage of an iPod, Sally's semi-abstract triptych based on raspberries in extreme close-up and Andy's hyper-realist large scale painting of glass jars.

The three finalists had their work exhibited at The Lowry Arts Centre, Salford Quays, in March and their work was featured in the March edition of 'Living Edge' magazine.

It is a fantastic achievement that, on the first time of entering this competition, Andy Walton's painting was awarded first prize in his section.

Josh Sharp (U6) has been informed that he has had a photographic textile piece accepted for the Grosvenor Museum Open Exhibition, to be shown alongside some of Cheshire's leading artists.

The Art department have also recently had news of two ex-students' artistic triumphs. Felix Chabluk-Smith, has been awarded a place at The Royal College of Art. His Master's Degree will specialise in menswear: he is the first student for 15 years to be allowed to specialise in this area (the workload in creating a menswear collection far exceeds that of a womenswear collection).

Felix has also won the Edinburgh College 'Stewart Parvin Award' 2011 (also known as the 'Best Graduate Award') and has been awarded one of three Burberry internships given as first prize in their national annual competition.

Sarah Narici, who left King's in 2010 to study jewellery at Central St Martin's, has won the Swarovski design competition. Her winning piece was a ring which was on display at the Swarovski Crystallized Lounge in London.

King's are very proud of their artists, past and present, and particularly pleased that they demonstrate such a range of skills and diversity of talent.

Business



For the second year running, the Economics and Business Department received a Good Schools Guide Award based on its GCSE results. The aim of the awards is to highlight excellent teaching in individual subjects. The judges consider the popularity of each subject, relative to similar schools, and the success that students achieve, relative to the other examinations they take. The 2010 award was for the best results at GCSE achieved by boys taking Business Studies & Economics at an English School.

The awards are made on the basis of results for 2007, 2008 and 2009 combined. With the department achieving its best ever results at A* (61% of the 41 students) and A* - B (98%) in 2010, there is every possibility of a hat trick in 2011. Record numbers of students are attracted to study the subject jointly at GCSE (60 students started the GCSE in 2010) and separately at A level. Over two thirds of the department's A level students then go on to study economics and business related degrees.

Design Technology



This has been a particularly exciting year for the department. During the Lent term we took receipt of our 3D Printer, which opens up fantastic opportunities for our students to print 3 Dimensional ABS plastic models of their design ideas. We are already using Solidworks computer modelling software, one of the design and manufacturing industries' leading packages; allowing our students to create sophisticated and professional design concepts.

The talents of our students have also caught the eye of one of the country's leading packaging manufacturers. Our Lower Sixth students have been working with product developers at Unilever on concepts for new laundry products. Working with professional designers has led to some very exciting outcomes.

The Michaelmas term also saw the launch of Mr Lloyd's Design & Technology Blog. The blog aims to bring cutting edge and inspirational design news to all at King's. It has already stimulated excellent dialogue between students and pupils in all year groups: <http://sites.kingschester.co.uk/dandt/>

It has also been another tremendous year for potential Arkwright Scholars. Five Fifth Year students have been shortlisted for the prestigious scholarship: Thomas Reeves, Charlotte Gurrán, Christopher Austin, Christian Churchman and Alexandra Garnett. Scholarships will be awarded in July and offer £500 over the two year A level study for students who continue with Design and Technology and Maths.

MFL debating



The King's School was represented at the 2010 MFL Northern Schools' Debating Competition by six Sixth Formers: Richard Capes and Max Imfeld (German), Dominic Thurlow-Wood and Ed Pilkington (Spanish) and Ilina Sen and Oliver Thompson (French). They competed against teams from eleven other leading schools in North West England in a series of debates on the following topics:

- **In the age of globalisation, the nation state has lost its power.**
- **The job of the paparazzi is immoral.**
- **Immigrants should adopt the customs and culture of their adopted country.**
- **The ends justify the means.**
- **Environmentalists are extremists.**

Whilst The King's School teams did not produce any overall winners this year, they were all complimented by the judge for the high quality of their reasoning, for their linguistic abilities, for the enthusiastic way in which they countered their opponents' arguments and, above all, for their good teamwork.



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



Clubs

The School's 120 clubs, societies and activities are beyond the scope of King's Eye: instead, we highlight below just some of their achievements from the past year.

Chess



It has been another successful year of chess at King's, with memorable victories in a range of competitions, national representation by pupils and being named "School of the Year 2010" by the Northern Counties Chess Federation for promoting chess in the North of England.

In October, 152 students from across the region took part in the Cheshire and North Wales Chess Championships hosted at The King's School for the second successive year.

Four King's students became county champions; Marvin Hayes (L6) U17, Davin Menon (5ths) U16, Susan Gorman (4ths) U15 and Owen Edwards (J4) U11. In addition, five other students became Schools' Champions; Matthew Temple (5ths) U16, Oscar Lloyd Williams (4th) U15 joint, Henry Thompson U15 joint, Animesh Anand U14 (3rds), Haran Makwana (3rds) U12. These individual achievements resulted in King's being the Secondary School Champions for the third successive year.

During February, students played in the North Midlands, Greater Manchester and West Zone final of the Yateley Manor National Chess Championships 2010/2011. The team members had not lost a single individual game in this competition so far and this success rate was repeated in the final. The team of Davin Menon, Marvin Hayes, Tim Pemberton (U6), Matthew Temple, Jack Salisbury (L6) and Susan Gorman (4ths) became the zone champions, a title that the School has not held for more than a decade.

In March, King's played King Edward's School, Birmingham, in the last 16 knockout of the National Schools' Chess Championships. Despite Susan Gorman

being unable to play due to illness and Oscar Lloyd Williams heroically stepping in at the last minute to take her place, the team earned a draw 3-3 against one of the country's leading Chess schools. Unfortunately, this competition uniquely operates an age handicap, so although the King's team performed admirably, they did not progress to the quarter final stage of the tournament.

The Lent term saw many students taking part in the British Land Chess Challenge which resulted in 17 students qualifying for the Mega Final later in the year.

Last Summer, Marvin Hayes was invited to take part in the trials for the England U18 Chess team and as a result he was selected to play for England in March. King's presently have two international players, with Davin Menon playing for Wales.

Duke of Edinburgh



The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme continues to be a popular activity for students at King's. A number of awards have been made to Bronze and Silver candidates and all students were invited to attend a presentation ceremony at Chester Cathedral in March. Tim Pemberton, James Edholm, Adam Jones, Graham Bendall, William Evertt and Joseph Bentley (all U6) have completed their gold awards and will attend a presentation ceremony at St James' Palace in London.

34 students registered for the Silver and Gold awards this year and successfully completed their practice expeditions in the Snowdonia National Park during the Easter holidays. Their assessed expeditions will take place during the Summer holidays.



Combined Cadet Force



After a very demanding selection process, Will Miller (L6) was awarded an Army Sixth Form Scholarship, one of only 100 offered every year across the whole country to students of the highest academic ability who display good leadership potential. In addition to sponsorship during his final two years of school, Will has been given a provisional place at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst when he finishes his university degree course.

Graham Bendall (U6) and James Edholm (U6) both completed the Air Cadet Pilot Scheme. A cadet can only be put forward for the scheme after completing a Gliding Scholarship and only then on the recommendation of his or her instructor. There are less than 50 places available on the scheme each year so it is highly unusual for two cadets from the same school to be selected in any one year.

Benjamin Moss (U6) was one of just eleven cadets from around the UK to be interviewed for the Sir John Thomson Memorial Sword, the highest award open to a CCF (RAF) cadet, of which there are some 10,000. Unfortunately, he was not selected as the winner but as one of the five worthy runners-up and for the outstanding contribution that he has made to the CCF, he will be awarded a Sir Geoffrey de Havilland Flying Foundation Medal for CCF Achievement at a ceremony in July at Royal Air Force Cranwell.

Drama



Having seen the venerable School Hall gutted in Summer 2010, the School sympathised with the bombed-out girls of the imaginary St Frederique's boarding school, forced by the Blitz to share accommodation with a King's School full of... boys! Written and directed by Clwyd Theatr Cymru's Emma Lucia, *King's Revisited* involved both ends of the pupil age-range at King's, as demure lower-school girls in kilts battled for supremacy against boys armed with catapults and stink bombs, whilst Sixth Formers played the roles of harassed teachers trying in vain to work out what on earth was going on - especially with Bishop Goodall's bust!

All this topping fun took place just before Christmas in the School Library, to which the play had been evacuated during work to transform the fondly-remembered School Hall of 1960 into the now fully-operational Vanbrugh Theatre of 2011 - complete with fully-equipped changing facilities, state-of-the-art technical equipment and retractable raked seating to ensure maximum versatility and audience comfort. 'You may build castles in the air,' wrote ex-King's pupil, Vanbrugh, in *The Relapse* in 1708. In 2011, the School decided to build a rather fine Theatre that proudly bears his name instead.

ifs Investors Challenge



Four groups of Lower Sixth students entered the ifs Investor Challenge this year, where teams are given a 'virtual' £100,000 to invest in the Stock Market for maximum return. More than 7,500 teams enter nationwide and so it is impressive that one of our teams, 'The Lemon Fighters', comprising Courtney Dowinton, Freddie Hill, Will Miller and Harry Ashworth, (L6) won through to the Regional Finals by finishing in the top 21 of teams in the North Wales and Midlands region. Their £100,000 share portfolio was worth £111,354 at the close of trading. At the Regional Final, they performed well but did not get amongst the prizes. The students left excited about their achievements and looking forward to the opportunity to do better next year.

Passion 4 Poetry



Passion 4 Poetry began in September with a group of Fifth and Sixth Year students, led by Mrs Lydon, who are all in love with this creative literary genre and eager to raise its profile even further at The King's School.

Since then, P4P (as it is commonly known) has organised poetry readings and poetry competitions, open to the whole School: one linked to the theme of 'Home' for National Poetry day in October and the other to festive poetry at Christmas, including a creative Poet-tree, adorned with Haikus written by students!

Our Summer term poetry event, 'Free spirit, Free verse', linked to the renowned Foyle Young Poets' annual competition, prompted some excellent contributions

from all year groups. As well as organising and promoting whole-School events, P4P members meet regularly to discuss poems and poets not studied in current GCSE or A level literature courses, a collaborative programme which prompts much discussion and aural appreciation of poetry.

Several of our members enjoy composing as well as reading poetry and a P4P anthology of our best in-house poetry is planned for publication next year.

Socratic Dialogue



Established in 2010, The Socratic Dialogue Society has allowed for insightful discussions on some of the most puzzling of perennial questions. Discussions have ranged from epistemological questions of how knowledge is acquired to the very topical debate surrounding 'shoot to kill mandates' and their ethical implications. The Socratic Dialogue Society is open for students from the Fourth Year up to Upper Sixth. The premise of the society is to follow a form of inquiry and debate with opposing viewpoints. This is based largely on asking and answering questions in order to stimulate critical thinking. The Society meets every Wednesday after School and has been thoroughly enjoyed by all who have attended.

German Club



German club runs every Friday lunch time, is attended by a devout group of eager Shells and is ably run by German A level students Anthony Ramsey, Richard

Capes and Max Imfeld. Students enjoy participating in games and activities in which they can practise their German such as Scrabble, Bingo and Blockbusters. They also try out quizzes about life and culture in Germany and listen to German music, but their favourite activities by far are the ones where they get to sample typical German food. They especially appreciated the "SchwarzwälderKirschtorte" or Black Forest Gateau.

The purpose of the club is to promote an interest in Germany and carry out fun activities, which build on what has been learnt in class.

Chinese Club



In September, Mrs Hao founded the first ever Chinese Mandarin club. The after school club has run for two terms. There are 22 Junior students and 14 senior students including Sixth Formers studying the most spoken language in the world every Tuesday and Wednesday.

Students have learned basic conversations on different topics, such as greeting and introducing themselves; they have learned numbers, animals, colours, food and drink and much more.

Students have also had the chance to write Chinese characters using brush pen, as well as learning more about Chinese festivals, art and how to use chopsticks.

If you are interested in this club, it isn't too late to participate. More events are coming up next year such as celebrating the Chinese New Year of the Dragon.

Dance



The Dance Club worked on a medley dance to four of Michael Jackson's songs. This included three different styles of dance: contemporary jazz, streetdance and rock 'n' roll. The students choreographed the fourth song. The first section of the dance was performed at the Shells/ Removes Interform Dance Competition in December.

For the final two weeks, the students were given cheerleading taster sessions. They learnt the basic positions of 'candlesticks', 'statue of liberty' and 'bow and arrow'. These skills were incorporated into a routine to a current pop song.

Spanish Club



This year, the Modern Foreign Languages Department increased its appeal by making available new DVDs, books and games in Spanish.

Some A level students have been running clubs for the younger language enthusiasts. The Spanish club, run by Tim Pemberton (U6), is aimed at Removes and encompasses a variety of Spanish related games such as Guess Who, picture bingo, Scrabble and picture/word dominoes. This allows the younger students to put into practice some of their newly learned vocabulary in a positive, friendly atmosphere.

For the more advanced students, there are games such as Trivial Pursuit, Monopoly, Tabu and Make a Story.

The Spanish Club has been running on Thursdays at 1 pm in the Language Lab.

History Club



History Club (also known as Past Masters) has been very successfully revived this year. Co-ordinated by Mr P. G. Neal, students from across the School have given short talks to fellow historical enthusiasts on topics as diverse as the *Save the Children Foundation* by Arthur Jebb KS (L6), *My Family in the Russian Revolution* by Nia Hughes (4ths), *British Military Medicine since World War II* by Christina Davies KS (L6) and *The US Hellcat* by Benjamin Maudslay (Shells). Some students such as Luke Evans (L6) and Cameron Szerdy KS (4ths) have even volunteered twice. The 20th century has featured most often but there have been notable exceptions such as *Buddha* and *The Chinese First Emperor: From Method to Madness*, both by Barnaby Rule (Removes), *Military Expansion in the Roman Empire* by Oscar Lloyd Williams (4ths), *The Trail of Tears* by George Vickers (L6) and the *Trojan Wars* by Jack Rhodes (L6).

Charity



It has been a busy year with a mix of local, national and international charities supported by individuals, groups and the School community as a whole. From cake stalls raising money for individuals and whole school days raising money and awareness to Amnesty events with no money raising agenda at all, the spirit amongst the students and staff to help others and have fun along the way is a constantly positive aspect of King's School life. In late November, a group of students took the School's Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes to the depot in North Wales. It was a freezing cold Friday night (it always seems to be) but the students worked

hard with some pretty tedious tasks and showed that fulfillment can be gained in helping others. Amnesty International was supported in their excellent Greetings Card Campaign where students are asked to read about 50 or so of Amnesty's most pressing cases and send cards at Christmas of solidarity to the prisoners and a message of protest to the Governments involved. We sent a record number of cards this year.

A group of around 40 students got together to plan the School's Comic Relief event in March. A week-long event involved students from every year and went without a hitch. From a 'Dr Who geek off' between staff (Mr Shepherd won) arranged by Sixth Formers and lunchtime selling of red noses to a brave bunch of teachers who had wet sponges and buckets of water thrown at them for a suitable amount of money. Friday arrived and the School community came prepared in fancy dress. The quantity, quality and invention was outstanding and the spirit in School (including lessons) was as good as it ever has been, illustrating that fun and education can be good bedfellows at King's. At lunchtime the chance was given for students to strut their stuff down a catwalk with music and expert commentary. Many students came to watch and support. More than £2,400 was raised for charity which goes to local and international children who need our help.

Geography Society



Geog Soc have continued to run their popular Fair Trade tuck shops and Fair Trade cafés this year. The aim of both ventures is to raise awareness of Fair Trade issues as well as raising money for Water Aid. Since the conception in 2009 of the Fair Trade initiatives within King's, more than £2,300 has been raised for Water Aid. The tuck shops are extremely popular and run every month. The Fair Trade cafés have seen an even greater variety of entertainment this year, with stand up comedy brilliance from Ketan Dhital (L6), amazing card tricks from the Shells magicians, in addition to stunning musical variety from the Fifth Year, the Sixth Form and the staff band. Geog Soc has also expanded its range of refreshments with Fair Trade banana milkshakes making a welcome splash. Approximately 100 students regularly come to each Fair Trade café and all those involved, students and staff, should be proud of all they have done for raising awareness of Fair Trade issues.

Sixth Form

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

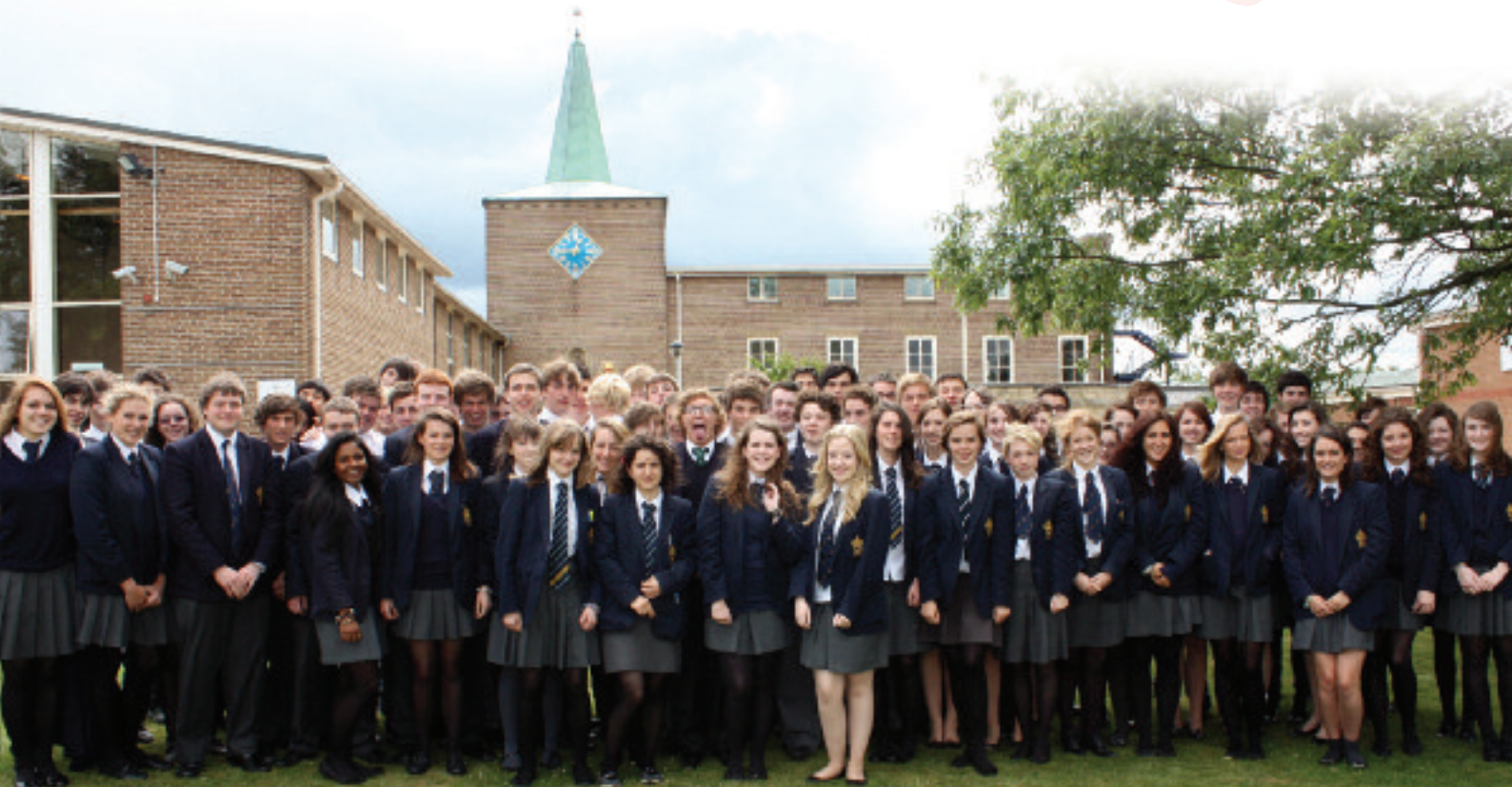
In September, the year started with a new Head of School team: Pete Johnstone, Joe Benson and Siobhan Barnard (all U6) along with new Assistant Heads of Sixth Form, Mrs Hollingworth (U6) and Mrs Chadwick (L6), and what a team they were!

The Extended Project went from strength to strength, with another group of extremely talented students presenting work on a hugely diverse range of topics.

In the most competitive year yet for university entry, King's students gained an average of just under four offers each, many of which were from the country's top universities. Twelve students were made Oxbridge offers (plus one for a 2010 leaver) and there were nine offers for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary, as well as many in the Russell Group and top 30 universities.

Outside the classroom there were a huge number of achievements in the Sixth Form this year with the boys hockey players reaching the national finals and the girls defeating all comers in Cheshire; RAF flying scholarships, GB rowing trialists, the Songs and Spirituals Sixth Form concert, England Chess representation, MUN representatives at The Hague, presentations at the Big Bang: UK Scientists' and Engineers' Fair, musical diplomas, a National Youth Training Choir member and the National Youth Choir, the National Youth Jazz Wales and much, much more. Not to mention the fantastic charity work which has taken place this year in the guise of Comic Relief and the Fair Trade Cafés.

A very talented Upper Sixth leaves this year having made the very best of the opportunities available to them and the School looks forward to them achieving success in their A2 examinations.



Sport

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

Rowing



As the Club continues to grow in confidence and numbers, the 2010-2011 season has been a year of development and many successes. The J14 squad, headed by Coach, Duncan Little, have been dominant on the national circuit with multiple victories on the regional and national racing calendar. The Club has boated two girls' and two boys' octuples throughout both the head and regatta season. A well-supported training camp to Devon during the Easter break helped focus the efforts of the athletes and bring the team together. Highlights of the season included the boys' octuple winning the National Junior Sculling Head and the girls' octuple winning bronze. The girls' top quad raced for the North West region winning gold at the Inter-Regional Championships. At the National Schools' Regatta all four boats qualified for their respective semi-finals. Over the final two hours of the Friday Regatta King's went on to set a new record for the Regatta. The 2nd girls' octuple sculled well and performed exceptionally to make the semi-final. The boys' 2nd Octuple led the final from the start and were comfortable winners. 40 minutes later both the girls' and the boys' octuple rowed through their opposition in the last 100 metres of their respective races to take gold in both events. This gave King's the triple, winning all three octuple events in the Regatta and a record as no club in the history of the Regatta has ever achieved this. A remarkable achievement for the squad and the strongest set of King's results on a single day of the Regatta in the history of the Club at National Schools'. A hugely successful year for the J14 squad, and with the developing J14 coaching team now including Stephen Levitt (former pupil), Mike Southworth and Helen Gillies, prospects are looking good for 2011-2012.

The J15 squad trained throughout the season with dedication and hard work during the winter months. Excellent early

season results were gained by all members of the quad with multiple wins in the head season. By the regatta season three of the J15 girls had won a place in the girls' 1st VIII, Eleanor Barnard, Henrietta Green and Alice Carr (4ths). The J15 girls' quad competed and won at Chester and Shrewsbury Regatta in addition to winning a bronze medal at the Inter-Regional's. The boys' squad boated three Vllls at the Schools' Head which converted to a 1st and 2nd VIII and a coxed four for the National Schools' Regatta. The training camps were a huge success for both the squads with the girls preparing for the Summer racing in Henley and Dorney whilst the boys trained and raced in Ghent. Early regatta season form was converted into many wins at both Chester and Shrewsbury, encouragingly all the boys' squad boats winning at Shrewsbury Regatta over the old rivals Shrewsbury School. At the National Schools' Regatta all the crews produced their best. The J15 championship VIII were unlucky to not make the final, racing in the harder of the semi-finals they finished 7th overall. The J15 2nd VIII retained the Mariners Cup by winning the J15 2nd Vllls for the second year running, dominating each round, they eventually won the final by clear water in an emphatic win. The J15 coxed four, reaching the final in style, finished an excellent 5th, a great result for the athletes ranked 17-20 in the squad. Finally on the Sunday the J15 girls produced a remarkable row, finishing 4th in J16 girls coxed fours, only 0.2 seconds off bronze.

The senior girls' squad continued to expand and build on a strong foundation. Led by a new senior girls' coach, Kris Williams, early season form helped build optimism in the squad. The crews from the squad won events consistently throughout the head race season, including an excellent win at the Trent Head. At the Schools Head, the squad raced a 1st & 2nd VIII, a first for The King's School. After a rigorous training camp at Easter in Henley the girls' boats were confirmed as a 1st VIII, School coxed four and a J16 coxed four. Wins at both Chester and Shrewsbury Regattas built confidence, including an emphatic win for the VIII at Shrewsbury Regatta. At National Schools' the 1st VIII were nudged out of a final place by Headington, finishing in 7th. The girls were visibly disappointed with their finish position but had shown great fight down the course. On the Sunday the squad produced two great results, the girls' four in the J16 coxed four event. The performance of the day though was the 4th finish from Charlotte Seddon (U6) and Elizabeth Williams (L6) in the championship coxless pairs, a remarkable result showing the progress the girls have made over the last 12 months.

The senior boys worked hard throughout the year and made excellent early season progress as they dominated many



regional races. Good performances at Wallingford Head were followed by a win at the Head of the Trent. At the Schools' Head the 1st VIII finished in the top 10, an encouraging 9th position gave the squad a boost for the Summer season. The boys trained well in Ghent and won medals in the coxed and coxless fours. The performance of the weekend was the 1st Vllls row on Sunday which saw them crowned the Flemish Junior Vllls Champions. The Summer season began with wins at Shrewsbury Regatta and the usual battle against Shrewsbury School in the 1st and J16 Vllls. At National Schools', the 1st VIII competed well but fell in the repechage, finishing in 10th place overall. The J16 VIII bounced back from early season disappointments to win a bronze medal in the J16 1st Vllls category, an excellent row. On the Sunday, the crews found the conditions challenging as the seniors broke into a coxed and coxless four, the coxed four eventually finishing in 10th.

On the international scene three athletes have made their mark. John Marsden (L6) and James Edholm (U6) followed up good results in the pair to be invited to final trials as they aim to make the GB squads for the Summer's regattas. Elizabeth Williams (L6) performed well in the Junior Welsh trials, finishing 2nd in the single and 1st in the pair, she will compete for the Welsh Team that race the Home Countries Regatta in July.

Football



Once again it was a busy and successful season for King's footballers, with nearly 250 matches being played and more than half of them ending in victory.

The senior footballers led the way in terms of improvement and performances which the rest of the School were to follow.

After a slow start, the 1st XI finished strongly and ended the season as double runners-up. Unfortunately, individual errors proved costly in the Chester & District Cup Final, a match in which the team performance overall possibly merited victory. In the Cheshire County Cup, however, after a fantastic run of performances took the team to the final, a notable achievement in itself, they met a very accomplished team from Lymm who were deserving winners on the night.

The 2nd and 3rd XIs contributed superbly to a memorable season. Often 'playing up' against higher ranked teams from opposition schools they played some brilliant football and achieved many remarkable results - a benchmark season in many ways. King's also fielded a 4th XI for the first time on several occasions this season.

The Removes were contenders for the most improved team of the season. After a disappointing start they showed great character and willingness to learn and finished the season just one victory short of a 50% success rate. Mr Lunn was thrilled with their victory in the Manchester Grammar School Eights Tournament where they won the plate competition.

From the Third Year, Jack Powell, Sam Jones and Matt Holland were selected for the District team and played their part in taking the team to the final of the Alcock Cup.

King's entered the talented Fifth Year into the ISFA Cup for the first time and they produced a phenomenal sequence of performances to reach the last 32 of this prestigious national tournament. They deserve great credit for a run which saw off some of the great footballing schools of the region.

The Fourth Year were a joy to be with all year, regularly producing some remarkable football and gathering plaudits from opposing coaches all season. Victories against Manchester Grammar School, Repton School, Shrewsbury School amongst many others gives an indication of how well they played. Unfortunately, of the five games they lost in total, one was the District Cup Final another was an epic ISFA Cup encounter against local rivals The Grange School which went to penalties, where the Grange goalkeeper, one of several Academy players in the team, continued the outstanding form he had showed all night to deny King's victory.

That just leaves the Shells, probably the team of the year. After inexplicably freezing early on in the season to exit the District Cup they went on to lose only five more games all season.

To reach the semi-final of the ISFA Cup they had to overcome, amongst others, the might of Greater Manchester - St Bede's School, Manchester Grammar School and Bolton School, the latter two away from home. Similarly, they had to travel well to reach the final of the Cheshire County Cup. In both of these massive games however, they came up against exceptional teams. Hampton School were a slick team but King's pushed them all the way whereas in the County Cup final, Neston High School were simply physically too strong. Nevertheless, the one memorable first was the visit of The Grammar School at Leeds who brought nine teams to King's and provided excellent opposition across the board.

There were other individual honours to add to those of the Third Year. Harry Peel (U6), 1st XI Captain also captained Cheshire, a team which included Joshua Murray (U6) who also represented ISFA at senior level. George Okell (5ths) gained full ISFA representative honours touring Finland with the U16 squad and George Nott (4ths) played for his country at ISFA U15 level.

Jack Powell (3rds) looks set for further recognition next season after being selected for the ISFA (North) development squad.

A terrific season for all was capped when the U13 squad were awarded The ISFA Fair Play award in recognition of their play and sportsmanship during their ISFA Cup run.

Girls' Hockey



The girls' hockey squads have had another outstanding season with the National Schools' Tournament being the highlight of the year for both the U14 and U18 squads.

The U18 Hockey Squad can be classed as the most successful girls' Hockey Squad to represent The King's School after what has been a remarkable season. The squad, captained by Siobhan Barnard (U6) and Kate Saunders (U6), has enjoyed regular fixtures and tournaments. In the 34 matches this season, the girls have won 30, drawn three and lost three. The squad have scored a remarkable 128 goals and conceded just 37. In District competitions, the squad won both the Indoor Tournament and Outdoor Tournament and retained the County Indoor Trophy. The girls were also finalists in the outdoor tournament. It was in the National Schools' Tournament that the first eleven reached the furthest stage that a King's girls' Hockey Squad has reached before.

By winning the Cheshire round, they represented Cheshire in the North West Semi Final and beat all opposition to reach the North Final. The squad only lost in the semi final on flicks, narrowly missing the National Schools' Final. To finish the season on a high, King's won the Cheadle Hulme Invitational Sevens Tournament, defeating Stockport, Kirkham, Cheadle Hulme and Withington Girls' School. As well as huge team success there are many individuals representing the county, Siobhan Barnard (U6), Charlotte Nott (L6), Millie Johnson KS (L6), Kate Coppack (L6) and Megan Rudge (L6).

The U14 team were Cheshire champions in the National Schools' Competition and narrowly lost in the North West Final to Cheadle Hulme. This remains their only outdoor defeat of the season. Their achievements for the season include winning the Chester and District Tournament and finishing runners up in the County Indoor and Outdoor finals. The U14 team have had a tremendously successful season and they continue to go from strength to strength - their results speak for themselves: played 37, won 31, drawn four, lost two. Kitty Abberton, Ellie Kearney-Mitchell, Katharine Pownell, Claire Kaye, Kate Huber, Anna Longson and Ellie Crisp (3rds) have all trained with the county squad with Katharine, Ellie and Kitty being selected to attend the regional JRPC.

For the U16s/U15s girls' hockey team it has been a mixed season. Outdoors the team have played eleven games, winning seven and losing four. In the indoor competitions both the U15s and U16s reached the final stages of their respective tournaments, with the U16s reaching the County Indoor final. All of the 16 players who have represented the School have worked hard for the team with consistently strong performances coming from Katey Beggan (5ths), Lexi Garnett (5ths), Hannah Dent (5ths), Emily Moss (5ths), Jessica Guest (4ths) and Sara Ashworth (4ths). Lexi Garnett and Katey Beggan have both represented Cheshire at U16s level whilst along with Hannah Dent, Katey has also trained with North Wales U16s.

The U13 team have also had a successful season which looks very promising as they enter into County and National competitions next year. An increasing number of girls have attended hockey practice and up to 20 girls have played in fixtures throughout the year. Their results for the year are very positive, winning 13 and drawing two of their 22 fixtures - an indication of the commitment of the U13 team. Individuals training regularly with the county squad are Charlotte Knight (Shells), Eloise Bland (Shells), Emily Boothroyd (Shells) and Sophie Drew (Shells).

The U12 Hockey Squad have competed in great numbers this year with 70% of Removes girls involved. These numbers are excellent and the performances of the girls also show signs of a promising next few years. The U12s have competed against local schools over the course of the year and the numbers have meant that King's have always been able to field an 'A' and 'B' squad. In a total of 28 matches the U12s have had ten wins, ten draws and eight losses, scoring an encouraging 54 goals and conceding 32. Several players have attended the County Junior Development Centre with Chloe Cowan, Polly Chapell, Sarah Sterne and Erica Ignata (Removes) progressing through to the academies.

The highlight of the season was the achievement in The King's School Invitational Tournament. Winning the tournament shows a promising future for this squad of girls.

Boys' Hockey



It has been a very successful season for all boys' hockey teams. The addition of England International, Simon Egerton to the coaching staff at King's has added a new dimension to the already successful hockey teams. The highlight of the season was the success of the 1st XI who reached the National Finals after being crowned Cheshire, North-West and North Champions and remaining unbeaten during the regular season.

The National Finals in May at Cannock Hockey Club saw King's in a difficult group including reigning champions, Repton School. The first game against previous winners Dean Repton Close School was the team's first real test of the year. After a slow start and falling a goal behind, the team showed the flair and form that they have produced all year; Captain Matthew Harle (U6) scoring the winning goal with a stunning penalty corner in the last minute of the game. In high spirits, the team faced a very strong Repton side. Tired and frustrated after creating early chances, Repton scored against the run of play and King's couldn't produce an answer to this.

The final score (0-8) did not reflect the performance and the team were extremely disappointed. The next day brought Cranleigh School, who after the first day were firm favourites and again previous winners on several occasions. King's again showed the ability and depth of the squad and although Cranleigh won the game 1-2, the fact that it was so close and that King's had more of the chances and possession, spoke volumes of the achievements of the team this year. Cranleigh went on to defeat Ipswich School in the final to be crowned Champions.

The U13 team also achieved success reaching the North-West Finals of the National Mini Hockey Championships. King's narrowly lost to a very strong Rossall team (0-3) to finish a creditable 4th in the North West.

The U14s and U16s both suffered single defeats during an otherwise unbeaten season which prevented them progressing beyond the county stages of the National competition.

Netball



Netball has again had a very busy season. More than 125 matches have been played throughout the season and across all age ranges. Over 80 girls regularly attend practice and all have played competitive games against a range of schools from across the North West and Wales.

Senior netball has gone from strength to strength this season. New players emerged in the Lower Sixth to boost already good players. Zoe Duckworth (U6) led by example as team Captain with Eleanor Sowden (U6) as Vice-Captain. The Chester and District Tournament is always early in the calendar which didn't fit well for the squad. More time was needed to gel as a team and King's took a disappointing 6th place. However since that point the squad has flourished. Emily Moss (5ths) and Katy Skues (L6) have developed a fantastic working relationship in the shooting circle and bounced their way past many defence. However, the major force of the squad has been the defence: Felicity Elsegood KS (L6), Olivia Harper (U6) and Eleanor Sowden (U6). These girls have had many admiring comments from opposition, staff and well deserved too. The highlight of the season had to be the final game against Ellesmere College. King's battled, coming from behind to force a draw. It was a great way to finish the season.

The U15 Squad has an abundance of players and talent and finally pulled things together for their final District Tournament, taking 4th place overall against the might of the District netball schools. Elizabeth Cousins (4ths) has been a fabulous Captain and worked incredibly hard for the team. King's have had some good results in this age group. Early in the season playing Queen Elizabeth Grammar School away was a very good win for the opposition, however King's showed how much they had improved by levelling the score by the 3rd quarter and narrowly missing out on a victory by three points by full time.

After a very successful training trip to Marbella at Easter the U14 squad started the season full of enthusiasm. They have been the most successful team this season only losing seven matches. They had a great result in the District Tournament coming 3rd overall, this was an improvement on last year. This season the squad have trained on Friday mornings which has proved useful and successful. 14 players have regularly attended and played this year and developed really well as a squad. Captain Ellie Crisp (3rds) has done a fantastic job organising and motivating the team.

There have been more than 20 regular team players in the Shells netball squad this season. There has been an A and a B squad playing local and North West teams, plus a District Tournament for both teams. Both squads have improved over the season and benefitted from extra coaching help this year. After losing against Bishop's High School early on in the season the U13A team beat them in the District Tournament with the B team doing exactly the same against Tarporley in their Tournament. Eight players went on tour to Marbella in the October half term so next season should be even better.

Removes netball has had a very successful season; practices have been very well attended and the girls have worked extremely hard on building their skills. When the girls arrived in September, many had gained a good understanding of the game already and the team also benefitted from a wealth of home grown talent with players moving up from The Junior School. Both A and B squads have enjoyed much success in their matches throughout the season. The A squad competed well in the Chester and District Tournament, losing in the semi-final to the overall winners, Jess Middleton (Removes) doing an excellent job as Captain. The B team won their Chester and District Tournament; winning every match and in fact only conceding three goals in the whole Tournament. The shooting combination of Anna Wallace (Removes) and Megan Jones (Removes) was really effective with Rachel Huber (Removes) giving an outstanding performance as Centre. The squad have benefitted from some coaching during lunch time from members of the first team squad, in particular Miranda Harle (L6) and Felicity Elsegood (L6), which has been much appreciated.

Rugby

As ever, the rugby boys of 2010/11 displayed excellent spirit, teamwork and mutual support and they progressed to playing some very decent rugby by the end of the season. In fact, the last game of the season against a strong Oswestry 1st XV was easily the finest performance seen from a King's School XV. Their peers came out to watch and expressed their surprise at the quality, fair play and physicality of the game they were seeing unfold! One was heard to say 'it's like watching rugby on the TV'. The Oswestry game, played on beautiful pitches in the sun was a delight to see: sweeping backs moves, a pack determined to gain parity and showing desperation to win the ball and sensible structured play from both sides. There are a couple of potentially excellent captains coming through for next year. After drubbings by a couple of experienced sides throughout the year, it was amazing to see the squad's ability to move on, train even harder and improve.

Outstanding seasons from scrum half and fly half were an essential aspect of the success and the pack and back lines enjoyed the structure they had from these two players. The fixture list is already being built for next season and we look forward to another season of developing all the most positive aspects of this demanding team sport.

Swimming



The Removes took part in the first District Swimming Gala of the year. Going into the relays, the King's boys' team were three points clear in the lead, however, some powerful swimmers for Christleton edged King's into 2nd place overall. The girls' team took 3rd place overall, missing out on 2nd place by one point.

The Shells boys finished 1st in fantastic style with 105 points - nearly 40 points ahead of the 2nd place school. The girls also did very well finishing 3rd and competed very well with particular successes for Anna Willis, coming 1st in the 50m breaststroke and Marion Vickers coming 3rd in the 50m Backstroke.

In the Third Year event, King's boys once again were crowned champions with a four point lead over Bishop Heber School. The girls finished 4th overall with a notable performance from Fiona McDonald KS.

The senior boys had a very strong team this year and came 2nd overall with Will Slater (5ths) setting a new District record in the Backstroke and winning the individual medley. The girls' team achieved 6th place overall.

The swimming season finished with a gala against Sandbach School, the first inter-school gala for many years. King's U15s were up against a formidable team and lost the head-to-head. However, the remaining three King's teams swam very well and strong performances in the relays confirmed their victories. When all results were combined King's won the gala by 20 points, a great achievement against a strong swimming school.

Boys' Tennis



The King's School boys' Tennis teams had a very successful end to the season. Friendlies were played against The Grange School, Manchester Grammar School, Lymm High School, Bishop Heber High School and Rydal School.

Teams also competed in The Aegon Tennis Knock Out and in The British School's Northern Tournament. All the teams competed very well and achieved considerable success. The highlight of the season in many ways was the U13 and U15 Tennis Teams competing in The Independent Schools' Tennis Tournament, held at Eton College.

Girls' Tennis



The Summer tennis season saw a number of friendly fixtures, where the emphasis was on giving experience to as many girls as possible, competition against other schools. Timed matches of 20 minutes were played against three or four pairs from the opposition schools, resulting in enjoyable fixtures and valuable match play for players in the Removes through to Fourth Year. Friendly fixtures were played against Cheadle Hulme School, St Bede's School, The Queen's School, Moreton Hall and Rydal School.

The stronger players took part in the Aegon team tennis competition at U13 level. They beat Queen's and Wilmslow but lost to The Grange School in the area league. King's also competed in Chester and District Competitions where we were highly successful in winning both competitions. The team was Georgina Hodson, Ellie Crisp, Zoe Souter and Lucy Armatage (all Shells) for the U13s who beat Bishop's School, The Queen's School, Bishop Heber High School, Christleton High School and Abbey Gate School. For the U15 team, King's was represented by Lexi Garnett, Hannah Dent, Charlie Corciulo and Emily Moss (all 4ths) who beat the local area schools to become District Champions.

Cricket



Following on from the promising start to the Summer (reported in last year's King's Eye) the season did, indeed, go from strength to strength culminating with three fine victories in the County Cup, but more of that to follow.

The 1st XI continued to play well, with the notable inclusion of Kate Coppack (5ths) in the team, becoming the first girl to play for the 1st team at King's. The team defeated Cheadle Hulme School and the Free Foresters, but the enforced lay-off during exams did dent the team's momentum and losses to the MCC, Manchester Grammar School, Hutton Grammar School and Queen Elizabeth's School, Barnet were a little disappointing, though the MCC fielded a very strong team, being wary of King's ability. However, the team did play some fine cricket, with Oliver Thompson (L6) scoring three centuries, though Arthur Thomas (L6) top scored with a fine undefeated 155 against Liverpool College.

The U15s, a team who had struggled in previous years, played wonderfully all Summer, led by Matt Williams (4ths) and the inspirational Mr Goff. Despite a couple of narrow losses on Saturdays the team gained in confidence and reached the final of the County Cup after a great run of victories. A wonderful final saw King's set a high, but reachable target. Fortunately, the bowling and fielding was sound and the team ran-out narrow winners over Sandbach School; a fitting end to a great Summer.

The U14s continued to show their class, winning all but two of their games - these two losses being with a weakened side. The victories allowed them also to reach the County Final, though their victory in the competition was more routine, it being by over 40 runs, also against Sandbach. This victory means that the team will represent the county in the National Competition next Summer.

The U13s, when results are taken into account, appear to have had a poor Summer. However, this is to overlook the very definite progress made under the wise leadership of Mr Neeves. The team is showing potential, as demonstrated by the fact that they reached the semi-final of the County Cup. What was also pleasing was the huge numbers at training; which reinforces the importance of the midweek 'B' team fixtures.

The U12s also had a great remainder of the Summer. The team gelled after the half-term break and won all but one of their games. The loss was against an undefeated Manchester Grammar School team, though the team played wonderfully in defeat. The main cause for celebration was the cup run, with two tight victories over St Anselm's School and Birkenhead School seeing the team reach the final, with King's School Macclesfield being the opponents. A wet day saw the start delayed, but a wise decision to bat first allowed King's to post a respectable score of 84. The early dismissal of their Captain saw King's take the initiative and wonderful fielding and bowling meant that King's Macclesfield were defeated by 24 runs. The U12s also represent the county in the National Cup next Summer, with a team which will be further bolstered by the returning powerhouse Steve Rimmer (Shells).

Despite the tremendous success of the teams, perhaps the most pleasing aspect is that over 100 games were played during the course of the Summer, with well over 100 students representing the school at various levels. It is hoped that this trend can continue so that as many students as possible get the opportunity to play this fine sport.

Athletics



After some great results in the English Schools' Athletics Competition and the home track meets, some of our students were selected to compete in the Cheshire Track and Field Championships. Representing Chester, eight King's students competed in this event held in Macclesfield on 12th June 2010. Rudi MacCloskey (4ths) took 4th in the hurdles, Matthew Spencer (4ths) 2nd in the Shot with a throw of over 12 metres. Lucy Davis (5ths) was 3rd in the triple jump and Emily Moss (5ths) 4th in the shot. Also competing were Tom Okell (4ths), Jack Thompson (5ths), Gabrielle Tuite (3rds) and Alice Carr (4ths).

Eight King's students were also asked to compete in the Cheshire Minors' Athletics Championships in Warrington, again representing Chester. This Chester team was selected after outstanding performances in the District Minors early in the season. Adam Sawney KS (Shells) gained 2nd place in the discus. George Back (Shells) 3rd in the hurdles and Emily Boothroyd KS (Shells) 4th in the girls' hurdles.

The athletics season closed with the District Athletics at Wrexham. Ten schools from across the District compete at this event from year 8 to 11. In the Year 8 competition the girls' team came 3rd overall. Kitty Abberton (3rds) took the javelin title and Gabrielle Tuite (3rds) won in the hurdles. The boys came 5th overall, Ben Johnson (3rds), 3rd in the hurdles and was also District High Jump Champion. Third Year girls were 7th and the boys 4th with Rudi MacCloskey being crowned District Champion in the hurdles, Cameron Thompson KS (4ths) a close second. In the Inter-competition the girls were 4th and boys 3rd overall. Ben Leaman (5ths) ran a personal best in the 1500 metres and Matthew Spencer retained his District (4ths) shot putt title.

Basketball



Basketball continues to flourish at King's, with many boys enjoying regular training sessions run by Cheshire Jets. The main events during the season were the Chester and District Competitions and King's played very well at both U14 and Senior level.

The seniors, with only five players, pulled off a remarkable victory in their competition, scoring over 50 points in their four matches. The team of Michael Collins, Marvin Hayes (L6), Jack Salisbury (L6), Elliot Garnell (L6) and Alex Way-Rider (L6) fully deserved their victory, defending hard and scoring several wonderful baskets.

The U14s were disappointed that two of the opposition teams let them down at late notice and not all fixtures were fulfilled, but victories over Queen's Park High School and Catholic High School meant that King's were joint top of the league going into the last game of the season against Upton. Unfortunately Upton proved too strong and, despite King's playing well, the team had to settle for the position of runners-up. The team was well led by Jack Meadows (3rds), who was also top-scorer, with James Kalaher (3rds) and Paul Brownson (3rds) also impressing with their all-round play.

Indoor Athletics

The Remove and Shell girls took part in the Chester and District Sports Hall Athletics in February. The girls competed in relay, two lap, four lap, six lap and an eight lap paarlauf, as well as shot, standing long jump, vertical jump, speed bounce and standing triple jump.

The Removes were represented by Sarah Stenrne, Chloe Cowan, Polly Chappell, Jessica Middleton and Erika Ignataviciate. They had some great results. Erika Ignataviciate came 1st in the two lap sprint and Chloe Cowan came 3rd in the six lap race. The team came 5th overall.

The Shells team (Emily Boothroyd, Anna Willis, Natasha Tudor, Marion Vickers, Charlotte Knight and Eloise Bland) competed against six other schools in this event. Runs went on times as there were two heats. Eloise Bland won her heat in the four lap race and King's took 2nd place in all other races. Emily Boothroyd took 1st place in the vertical jump with a score of 50cm. King's took 3rd place overall, missing out on 2nd place by only four points.

Gymnastics



Two teams of girls from Shells and Thirds took part in the Chester & District Gymnastics competition held at The Catholic High School in December. In the Thirds competition, girls performed a straddle jump or somersault off the trampette, and also group floor work. The Shells

disciplines were a vault and a pairs floor routine.

Both years from King's performed very well, most importantly gaining valuable experience in a competition setting. Sian Jackson (3rds) was joint winner of the 3rd Year vault and Ffion Douglas (Shells) was the winner of the Year 8 vaulting competition.

In addition to this, the Removes and Shells performed their routines in assembly in December and are already polishing routines in preparation for next year's competition.

Cross Country



The boys took part in the Chester and District Cross Country Championships in October. They competed wonderfully at all age ranges, with King's Sixth Form winning the event, remarkably having four runners in the top six, with James Ellis (U6) finishing his school career with victory for the second year in a row. The Intermediate team, made up of Fourth and Fifth Years, placed 2nd in a strong field, with Peter O'Brien (5ths) and Connor Morrison (5ths) both producing a top ten finish. Competition was toughest in the Junior (Shells and Thirds) and Minor (Removes) events, each race having over 40 athletes involved. King's placed 4th and 5th respectively, with Ben Paxton (3rds) placed 3rd in the Junior event and Josh Dawson (Removes) finishing 6th.

Placement in the top 20 secured selection for the Chester team which raced in the county event. King's had several athletes selected, but school commitments meant that only Ben Paxton (3rds), Michael Ellis (3rds) and James Ellis (U6) were able to compete.

The girls took part in the Chester and District Cross Country in October, competing against eleven other schools in the District. King's was the only school that managed to enter a full senior team and for the second year running took 1st place. In the Junior competition, which is a mixture of both

Shells and Thirds, it was extremely tight as only three points separated the top three teams with King's taking 3rd place. The Remove girls' team came 2nd along with the Fourth's.

Those girls who came in the top 20 then had the opportunity to represent Chester in the County Championships in January. Niamh Jones (Removes) came 33rd, Rebecca Hatton (Removes) 47th and Rachel Huber (Removes) 68th in a field of 87 runners. They helped the Chester team come 4th overall. The Junior girls also came Fourth with Emily Boothroyd KS (Shells) coming 22nd, Anna Willis (Shells) 25th, Ellie Green (3rds) 63rd, and D'arcy Tuite (3rds) coming 71st out of 80 runners overall. Alice Carr (4ths) was our only representative in the Inter-Girls' team. She took 19th place out of 51 runners and that team came second overall. Chester were strongly represented in the Senior girls' race and took first place. Lottie Frazer-Cox (L6) and Lara Goodwin (L6) came 7th and 8th respectively.

Rounders



All age groups for girls rounders competed at District level in friendly fixtures against local schools, as well as the District Tournament. This season saw the first Saturday morning fixture against Birkenhead School, a chance for the girls to play a full

version of the game. The squads for the younger age groups (U12, U13) are hugely popular, with the majority of girls in the year group attending lunchtime practices. Teams change every fixture to ensure that all girls have the opportunity to represent the school.

The U13 squad went into this season as previous winners of the U12 District rounders tournament. Approaching the tournament the squad were unbeaten and in the tournament against Abbey Gate College, Tarpoley High School, Catholic High, Bishop Heber High School, Christleton High School and Blacon High School, King's played very well and were only defeated in the final by half a rounder. Katie Pownall (Shells) seemed to appear as a regular 'player of the match'. In the U12s first season of fixtures they started slowly and lost marginally in their first few matches. With only one win approaching the tournament the Removes knew they faced a tough challenge. Excellent batting by Emily Boothroyd KS, Harriet Fisher and Sophie Drew combined with excellent fielding from Georgina Dabourn and Eloise Bland saw King's through to the semi-final where they narrowly lost to Upton by one and half rounders. A great development over the season. The U14 squad were limited on numbers and enjoyed training and playing matches regularly. Disappointingly they came 5th in their tournament, however persevered and represented the school in good spirits. Susan Gorman (3rds) playing particularly well in bat and field.



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