



THE ANNUAL REPORT OF  
THE SCHOOL COUNCIL  
KING'S SCHOOLS, TAUNTON  
2010/2011



## Introduction from the Custos

I am very pleased to bring you the second Annual Report of the School Council. As you will see below, it has been a tremendous year for both Schools and we are well set to weather the economic storms ahead. This is testament to the strength of the teams in place across the organisation. I thank them, on behalf of the School Council, for their hard work and commitment.

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you an extract from the Schools' Strategic Plan.

"The King's experience is designed to prepare each pupil for success and personal fulfilment. That means the best academic results possible, but also excellence in a broad range of activities as well as instilling a love of learning. We also believe that school is about more than preparation for what is to follow, and must be a thoroughly worthwhile and fulfilling experience in itself.

"Our expectations are that pupils give of their best, that staff encourage them to do so and that parents support both in their efforts. We are ambitious for our pupils, and are dedicated to keeping alive the very special Woodard tradition of mutual support. We expect certain things of all in the community: commitment, hard work and ambition, but also tolerance, respect, pride in oneself, honesty, integrity and courtesy.

"We strive to be Schools

- ✦ With a strong reputation for academic value added and for enriching the academic experience beyond the formal syllabus, to the benefit of all pupils
- ✦ With a reputation for excellence in a wide range of extra-curricular areas, including but by no means limited to sport, drama, music and outdoor pursuits
- ✦ Which lead the way in terms of educational innovation and practice
- ✦ Which recruit, retain and develop staff with outstanding ability
- ✦ With outstanding facilities in every area
- ✦ Which are increasingly recognised locally, nationally and internationally for their own distinctive and excellent brand of education
- ✦ Which remain well rooted in their own traditions and in their Woodard foundation
- ✦ Which have excellent links with the local community as well as Old Boys and Girls and the Friends of the Schools."

I think this extract captures exactly what we want of the Schools and I commend it to you.

  
Roger Knight CUSTOS  
January 2012



# King's Hall School, Taunton

THE HEADMASTER'S REPORT



It has been another exceptional year for King's Hall. In May 2011, we underwent an OFSTED boarding inspection. Many aspects of the provision were judged to be outstanding with the report painting a very positive and favourable picture, describing us as being 'as close to home as can be'; it was reassuring to have official confirmation of what we already know to be an excellent feature of the School.

We have moved on apace with improving the site, with a new roof and windows for the Art Room and the Technology Workshop, a new recreational area for Years 3 and 4, redecoration and recarpeting of the Arts Centre, and improvements to the girls' changing rooms, the kitchens and the main drive. Plans for future development are very well advanced and are to be announced in the near future.

### Academic Highlights

- ✦ Year 8 leavers gained nine academic scholarships to senior schools
- ✦ 100% pass rate for all pupils who sat the Common Entrance examinations
- ✦ Year 6 children gained four academic scholarships to continue to King's College

### Sporting Highlights

- ✦ 1st VII made the last 16 of the Rosslyn Park National Rugby Sevens
- ✦ 1st XI cricket team was unbeaten with six boys being selected to play for Somerset
- ✦ The School's U13 and U11 teams were county cricket runners-up
- ✦ The 1st VII netball team took part in the National Finals
- ✦ Our girls' U13 tennis team was unbeaten in the AEGON league
- ✦ Our athletics team came second in the South West Schools Cup
- ✦ Eight children gained sports scholarships to their senior schools



### *Drama, Art & Music Highlights*

- ✦ The ever-popular House Music Competition was a huge success
- ✦ The Michaelmas Term saw Year 6 perform *Trolls*
- ✦ Year 8 produced a magical, mystical version of *The Changeling Princess*
- ✦ Many children took part in the Taunton Music and Drama Festival with a number winning their class
- ✦ Four art, one drama and three music scholarships were gained by Year 8 children to senior schools



I am also delighted that we have launched our first Annual Fund. This has been extremely well supported and, thanks to the generous support of parents and Friends of King's, we are benefiting from new choir robes, cricket sight screens and a cricket score box, a hide at the

bottom of the front field and a weather station.

We continue to improve and strengthen our links with King's College and we are stronger together through this mutually beneficial relationship in difficult times.

✦ *Justin Chippendale*

# King's College, Taunton

THE HEADMASTER'S REPORT



The highlight of the year for me was undoubtedly the opening of the new Philip Richards Building. The library has already transformed how pupils work at King's and the spaces freed up elsewhere in the school are already being put to good use. Our thanks again to Philip for making this possible.

We had a boarding inspection in May 2011 and were graded good with many outstanding

features. More important than any inspection is the knowledge that the housemasters and housemistresses are exceptional people, with a real passion for caring for the pupils in their charge. I thank them warmly for their total commitment to the role. I also thank my entire staff for their contribution to another memorable and successful year. I remain very proud to be the Headmaster at King's College. ✦ *Richard Biggs*

### *Academic Highlights*

- ✦ Amongst the best ever GCSE and A level results (and by far the best in terms of A\* grades: 16% at A level, 31% at GCSE)
- ✦ Exceptional results in the Sciences
- ✦ 65% of pupils getting As or A\*s in Design Technology
- ✦ One pupil being awarded the prestigious Arkwright Scholarship in Design Technology
- ✦ Excellent university application success rate



### *Drama, Art & Music Highlights*

- ✦ An excellent production of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
- ✦ The inter-house drama competition enjoyed a very successful second year
- ✦ More concerts, both formal and informal, than ever before
- ✦ One pupil selected for the final of the Woodard Musician of the Year Competition
- ✦ A new wooden sculpture of an angel, by local artist Derek Nice, installed in the Chapel

### *Sporting Highlights*

- ✦ Alumnus Jos Buttler won his first full England cricket cap for the Twenty20 side
- ✦ Three OAs regularly played for Somerset County Cricket Club
- ✦ Oliver Fox ran for England
- ✦ Matthew Richards won his first international hockey cap for England U16s
- ✦ The girls' netball and hockey squads enjoyed a very successful tour of South Africa
- ✦ The 1st XI boys' hockey team lost only one match
- ✦ Our Under 14 cricketers had an unbeaten season, as did the Under 14 netball team

### *Other Highlights*

- ✦ The King's weekly Outreach programme continued to flourish
- ✦ The Science Department was active in taking its 'Rain Forest Experience' to local schools and several schools visited King's to see The Renewable Energy Cabin (TREC)
- ✦ The Classics Department ran a very successful and popular programme of Latin teaching for gifted and talented pupils from Bishop Fox School, a local maintained secondary school
- ✦ The Marines section won the prestigious Sir Steuart Pringle Trophy for the second year running
- ✦ Three teams once again completed the Ten Tors Challenge
- ✦ 40 pupils achieved their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards

# The Development Office

## THE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT'S REPORT

The Office has continued to organise a busy events programme for Alumni, Friends of King's College and King's College Parents' Association and expanded its remit to include King's Hall.

### King's College

The 2010/2011 Annual Fund for King's College was very successful with all projects being funded. Overseas visits to Hong Kong in March and Munich in June 2011 proved very successful for fundraising, as well as

helping with the recruitment of new pupils.

### Archives

Following the opening of the Philip Richards Building, King's College now has a dedicated Archives Department. Alison Mason, the Archivist, has produced displays for OA and School events and has supported ongoing pupil research such as House histories projects. There have been regular internal and external queries about the Archive collection and a large number of donations have been received.

### OA Club

The Development Office is also the OA (Old Aluredian) Club Office and organises all events, communications and answers queries for 4,200 active members. Highlights this year included:

- \* 85 guests for the King's College OA reunion in November 2010
- \* 100 guests for the London OA reception at the House of Commons in February 2011
- \* 60 OAs from the forties and fifties dined at the RAF Club, London in April 2011
- \* Increased use of social media communities such as LinkedIn and Facebook



### King's Hall School

In June 2011 the Development Office launched the Inaugural Annual Fund. The fund was supported by Alumni and parents and has already resulted in the purchase of a hide for the front field (pictured above), a weather station

for the School and new choir robes. The Office has also supported the creation of a new social organisation, the 'Friends of King's Hall', which will organise social events for parents throughout the year. \* Leisa Lavender MBE

# The Schools' Financial Situation

## THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE'S REPORT

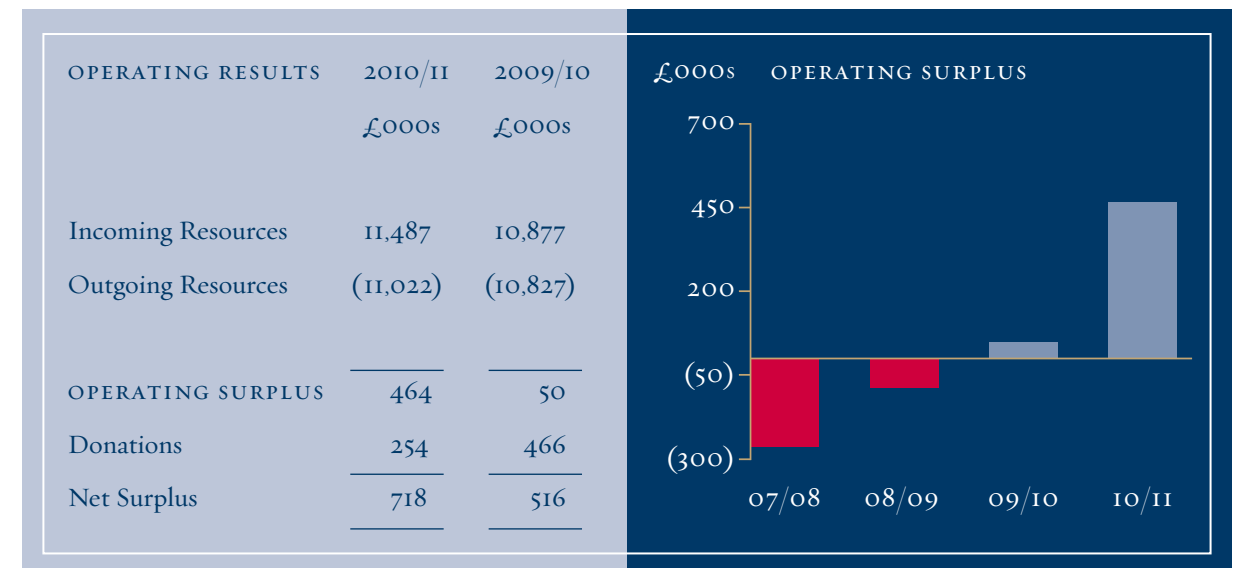
I am delighted to report that the Schools made a very healthy operating surplus for 2010/11, as a result of both higher numbers at King's College and tighter cost control across the organisation. This surplus comes as the economic news continues to be gloomy and it gives us a very important buffer in uncertain times.

In contrast to a lot of schools, we have a very low level of debt, with loans outstanding at the year-end of only £550k against a balance sheet

of some £13.6m. This represents less than 5% of gross income and only 16% of termly fee income.

The Council continues to review this position and may look to increase the debt should it be prudent to do so, as part of the overall mix of funding appropriate to support future major capital projects. The Council has no intention of using borrowings to fund the working capital of the Schools.

\* Miles MacEacharn FCA





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