

Challenge of Management

The Apprentice versus Dragon's Den. This whole day event, which involved L6th pupils from KEHS and KES helped prepare students for the everyday pressures, thrills and dilemmas of the modern world of work. At this event, the students undertook a number of team-based "hands-on" activities; including a business simulation where they had to run a virtual ice-cream company, role play case studies involving negotiation, they had to find gaps in the market and develop presentations on potential ideas and to finish off the day they were involved in "Bric-a-Brac" - a marketing, design and production exercise which certainly excited all. Most importantly, during the conference everyone practised and developed skills essential for effective management and success in the world of work. The skills included team working, leadership, communication, working under pressure, effective listening and problem solving. During the conference, each group of 8 or 9 sixth form students had an adviser from the "world of work" as a member of their team, who brought to the event knowledge and experience not normally available to the team. A big thank you must go out to the parents who helped out as 'Advisers'.



Sports News

It has been a very unpredictable term because the weather has been so bad! Some matches have been played with success but a number have had to be cancelled because of the weather. In the Lawn Tennis Midland Girls' Tournament which was hosted at KEHS, the first couple which consisted of Jess Lloyd and Elizabeth Whitehouse, came fourth with only a point between KEHS and the first three placed couples. In the second couples competition, Grace Santos Murphy and Rebecca Davison came second and in the 'friendly competition', Charlotte Parker and Kavita Patel were declared winners. Well done to all involved. In the Nestle Year 10s and under competition, the team have won all their local matches and will now go on to represent Birmingham in the regional rounds. Congratulations to Madeline Grant, Elizabeth Whitehouse, Rebecca Davison and Grace Santos Murphy who have performed consistently well throughout the competition. Finally in the annual Fry cup which was held at KE Handsworth this year, the team narrowly missed out on winning the cup by 2 points. Once again the tennis played by all was of an outstanding standard and the girls were a credit to the school.

Well done to Charlotte Gimson who has been selected to compete in the All England Schools' Athletic Championship for the West Midlands intermediate girls javlin.



Music for Everyone

On Wednesday 28th June the school staged its annual 'Music Festival'. There were over 100 performances and the audience were extremely appreciative. The chief judge was Steve Collisson who is a founder member of the Tempest String Quartet. He is currently a part-time lecturer and chamber music coach for the University of Birmingham.



L4C.

Sophie Cheng from the 3rds was the overall winner of the 'solo strings' section. Mohini Pathak from the U4th was the winner of the 'solo voice' section and the Lower 4ths were the winners of the group ensemble. However the overall winners of the competition were

Saucey

The Spanish Department organised a Salsa session as part of its cultural programme. The students had the opportunity to learn the basic steps of Salsa with the director of 'Simply Salsa'. The event was very successful with the full participation of Lower 5th girls and some daring teachers!

Salsa is danced informally in Central and South America but has become quite popular in the UK. The name 'Salsa' is the Spanish word for sauce, but could also refer to a mixture of elements. The Salsa aesthetic is flirtatious and very energetic. Salsa music has been derived from the 'cuban son' and 'rumba'.



Ogden Business Trust Regional Winners

Our 3 top Economics and Business students attended this high profile business competition along with 4 other teams to decide upon strategies that should be followed by a fictional young business.

They had to analyse pages of detailed data, come up with solutions and design a PowerPoint presentation - all in 3 hours!!

After lunch, they proceeded with presenting their idea with a full marketing and financial plan to the other teams and judges.

The girls from KEHS - Rishum Butt, Charlotte Lamb and Min Jung-Kang did extremely well. They came up with an innovative idea which included many themes that targeted the fictional population in the area (young, high income earning, 'cash-rich-time-poor' professionals) such as Cheese and Wine parties with an environmental slant to their proposals.

They had thought through their ideas well and presented them in a relaxed and professional manner. The financial analysis was precise and high profits were predicted from the venture.

Question time was very fierce but the girls were highly relaxed and could argue their points very well. They won and now proceed to the Regional Final which will take place in September. Good luck girls!



King Edward VI High School for Girls

KEHS News

July 2007

Dreaming of the Future

Dream Futures Gala

We were all treated to a really spectacular show on Sunday 1st July at the Symphony Hall. KEHS and KES Symphony Orchestra along with the City of Birmingham Symphony Youth Chorus, Hallfield Prep School and Elmhurst School for Dance put on a superb performance of A Midsummer Night's Dream. It really was a night to remember; the proceeds raised from the show, which currently stand at £35,000, will go towards Save the Children's "Re-write the Future" Campaign, which aims to ensure that children living in countries affected by conflict do not miss out on education and bring quality education to those who most need it. Congratulations to all those girls who have worked so hard to put on such a fantastic and memorable performance.



And So...

Only two nights later, the school again took over Symphony Hall for the annual KES/KEHS summer concert. The range and depth of musicianship was outstanding on this occasion too with the evening being brought to a hilarious close by the Champagne Polka.

Gone But Not Forgotten

It is with sadness that we say goodbye to three senior members of staff this year: Mrs Darby, Miss Jackson and Mr Hopkinson. They have all been at KEHS for a number of years and will be missed by girls and staff alike. May we wish them all the best in their retirement and in anything they undertake in the future.



Back to the Past

On Wednesday 29th June all of KEHS Thirds joined their counterparts at KES for an "open air medieval day" staffed by re-enactors. They experienced what life was like during the middle ages by meeting medieval musicians, archers, soldiery, merchants, a barber-surgeon, a cook and a potter. The day succeeded in challenging preconceived perceptions of what life was like in the middle ages.



News from the Religious Studies Department



June has been a busy month for the Religious Studies Department. On Wednesday 20th, all L5th girls visited the Dhammatalaka Peace Pagoda in Ladywood and the Western Buddhist order in Moseley. Girls were able to learn about Buddhism directly from those practising the faith and gain an insight into the varieties of

Buddhist traditions. As the girls had a G.C.S.E. Chemistry exam the next day, the calming meditation session was particularly pertinent!

We have also welcomed the Gideons into Junior assembly. Mel Heartland explained the work of the organisation which delivers Bibles to schools, hospitals, hotels etc. Girls who wished to, received the gift of a copy of the New Testament and Psalms. The U4th have been

privileged to hear from both Muslim and Sikh women who have visited school to offer insights into their faith communities. Finally, the Religious Studies Department was delighted to welcome the



Rev. Eve Pitts on 9th July. The Lower Fourth were privileged to hear Eve speak about her vocation and the meaning of Jesus' teaching for today. Rev. Pitts commented on the positive ethos within KEHS and the strong sense of racial and cultural harmony. She urges us to cherish and continue to promote it!

Film Festival

As part of the school's induction programme on the 10th July the Upper 5th participated in a one day film school run by Magma Films.



The aim of the day was to provide students with team building and leadership opportunities. Throughout the day girls participated in a variety of

workshops and in the afternoon they worked in groups to produce a short movie. The quality of the films produced by the girls was quite stunning; it was also an opportunity for students who will be joining the 6th form in September to meet and work with existing students.

All the girls went away having had really enjoyable and worthwhile day.



Tom and James the trainers from Magma Films

History at KEHS

July 2007

The Department

The History Department currently consists 3 full-time members of staff (Miss Jackson, Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Burnett), and also benefits from valuable part-time teaching from Miss Dovey and the Assistant Head Teacher Ms. Pallister.

The Curriculum

Our overall aim is to develop a real and enduring interest in History. We want our students to have a thirst for knowledge, and to want to know not only what happened in the past, but why and how it happened. It is important to us that our students can begin to make sense of the present through their knowledge and understanding of the past. We aim to develop in them analytical and evaluative skills that will be useful to them throughout their lives.



In the Thirds to Upper Fourth we focus on topics in depth rather than following a general framework of the period 1066-1945. Girls are given a copy of the course content at the beginning of each academic year. In the 3rds the course focuses on British History in the years 1066-1500, concentrating on topics such as the Norman Conquest, the development of castles, the medieval church, village life as well as significant developments such as the Black Death. In the Lower 4th, topics include a study of the Reformation under the Tudors, the development

and demise of the Slave Trade, and the Industrial Revolution. In the Upper 4th girls look at the changing role of women in 19th and 20th century Britain and the impact of the First and Second World Wars on the Home Front in Britain.

History is a popular choice for GCSE. Girls who opt for the subject study the OCR Modern World specification. International relations between 1919 and 1945, Germany 1918-1945, the USA 1918-1941 and Britain 1906-1918 are the main areas of study. The popularity of the GCSE course leads many girls to continue to A level, with 2 sets in each year group in the 6th form. The current A level specifications are set to change, but girls this year have studied the reign of Henry VII, Henry VIII 1509-1529 and Stalin's Russia in the Lower 6th, while the Upper 6th have studied Mussolini's Italy, USSR 1924-1941 and the problems of the English Succession between 1529 and 1640. The latter is a taught course which leads to coursework which contributes to the final grade.



A Successful Department

The History Department regularly achieves excellent public exam results. For example in 2006 84% of our GCSE students gained an A*, and 2005 94% of our A2 students gained an A or B grade. We regularly have A level students who are studying History together with 3 sciences, and many of our students go on to read either History or a closely related subject, such as Politics or Law, at university.

Field Trips, Events and Lectures

It is central to our belief that History extends well beyond the classroom. The Thirds visit Goodrich Castle in Herefordshire in the summer term where they have the opportunity to observe for themselves the different features of castle defence. This year the Thirds were also invited to learn more about what it was like to live in the Middle Ages by attending a 'Medieval Day' at KES where re-enactment groups demonstrated their skills in medieval music, pottery, scrivening, arms and armour, surgery and archery. In the Lower 4th, girls visit the Black Country Museum for the purpose of gaining some understanding of how industrialisation affected the living



and working conditions of people living in the Black Country. This year the U4th had a talk from the grandparents of two of the year group on their experiences in living through the Second World War. The U5th regularly have a lecture on the role of women in the First World War by Dr. Sian Nicholas from Aberystwyth University. The 6th Form also attend Sovereign Education Revision Conferences relating to their A level units of study. In March this

year an excellent series of lectures on Stalin's Russia was attended by the Upper 6th historians, and they enjoyed hearing the views of such renowned historians as Robert Service and Chris Ward.

Extra-Curricular Activities

The Junior History Society and Living History group are run jointly with KES. The latter is a particularly successful re-enactment group, led by Mr. Davies from KES and Mrs. Burnett from KEHS, who are invited to a wide range of venues in different parts of the country. At Spring Bank Holiday they demonstrated their skills at Osterley Park in the heart of West London, while at Half Term they were at Cosmeston in South Wales. They also attend local events. A trip



to Normandy has proved very popular with the Thirds and Lower 4ths in the past couple of years. This has given insight into medieval Normandy through visits to the Bayeux Tapestry and Bayeux Cathedral, while also providing some understanding of the Second World War and its impact, through a visit to the Caen Peace Museum and a Commonwealth War Graves cemetery. Plans for the future include another trip to Normandy and also one to Berlin.