

## SIXTH FORM SEMINAR LUNCH

We were delighted to welcome members of the Birmingham academic community to join members of the school for a sixth form seminar lunch in March. Three girls Priya Shah, Emma Davies and Helen Pennington presented papers, Priya and Emma spoke about different aspects of astro-physics and Helen's presentation had a botanical focus-the cultivation of insect eating plants. All three girls had researched the work outside of the school curriculum, showing a real passion for their subject. They answered some very challenging questions with insight and confidence. Their parents and friends were also among the audience.



## PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

This term the under 18 netball team has been training very hard for the West Midlands' Netball Tournament, which was held at Aldridge School. The standard was very high and the girls did not progress beyond the group stage, but 'well done' to all involved for their hard work and training leading up to the tournament and on the day. The Under 16 Hockey team played against King's High School Warwick in the National Under 16 Plate Competition. The team played really well, particularly in the second half, but narrowly lost in the last minute by two goals to one. We have set up a Lacrosse Club this year which initially appeared very popular. Interest in the club has dwindled of late but we are reluctant to fold the club at this stage.

## DANCING: SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY!

The theme of this year's dance production was 'Science and Technology' with 135 girls taking part. The dancers performed over three nights to a full capacity audience who were kept entertained by some electrifying performances. Mel Etti, this year's Dance President, has written her own account of all of the preparations for the production entitled 'A year in the life of a KEHS Dancer' which you can access on the school website.



## FAREWELL

It is with regret that we say goodbye to Mrs Burns (chemistry & biology) who is leaving us after 9 years. She will be working for a short time at an LEA school in Stourbridge before leaving England, with her family, to set up home in Australia. The staff and girls wish her well and hope she is very happy in her new home and country. G'day Mrs Burns!!



## OPENING of the MODERN LANGUAGES and CAREERS CENTRE

On Wednesday 7th March school governors were able to view the new suite of modern languages rooms along with our new, updated careers centre. Also joining us for the evening were the architect Tony Cliff and the building developers Cadismount. It was a lovely opportunity to thank those who had made such an enormous contribution to school development. Members of the 6th form committee were also on hand along with teachers from the modern languages department who were able to demonstrate some of the state of the art features available in each of the classrooms.



## THE HIRED MAN

This year's senior production took us back to the turn of the century. It was yet another stunning musical production - the performance of all the actors kept us on the edge of our seats. The costumes and the sets were also superb. Well done to everyone involved. More detailed reviews will appear in the summer editions of Phoenix and High Profile. A picture gallery of photos from the evening can be seen on the website.



## MANDARIN CHINESE

On the 9th January, 16 of our students started a beginners' course in Mandarin Chinese. The girls are a cross-age group of students including first years right through to girls in the fifth year. The girls are learning Mandarin Chinese with a view to taking a GCSE in the subject. Ms Wong, a very experienced and well respected language teacher within the city of Birmingham, has been working with the girls over the last few months.



## SPANISH THEATRE PRODUCTION

As part of its cultural programme, the Spanish Department recently hosted a very interesting production by "Firewalk Theatre", a company specialising in performing plays in Spanish for audiences of young people. The event, attended not only by KEHS students, but also by those from other local schools was a real success. "El Lazarillo de Tormes" is a great classic of Spanish 16th Literature. The Spanish department is organising a Salsa Session for the summer term and an educational visit to Barcelona at the end of the year as well.



## DIARY DATES

Thursday 10th May 7:30 p.m Choral Society sing in St Martin's in the Bull Ring: African Sanctus.  
Sunday 1st July 7:30 p.m Gala Evening of Music and Dance. Our first collaboration with Elmhurst School of Ballet at Symphony Hall. A fund raising event for Save the Children.  
Tuesday 3rd July 7:30 p.m Summer Concert at Symphony Hall.

## King Edward VI High School for Girls

# KEHS News

March 2007

## DIDN'T THEY DO WELL!!

Our girls have emerged victorious again for the second year running in the **Physics Big Quiz**. The University of Birmingham organise the event for teams of students from Year 9 in West Midlands' schools. Our three teams performed very well, but the team from U4B beat off the competition from 40 other teams to take top prize. The girls (Melanie Sackett, Elizabeth Mitchell, Sonia Razi, Elizabeth Farrow, Lauren Ross) received medals and electronic construction kits whilst the school was presented



Congratulations to Julia Tanner (16) who has won the **Senior National Final of The Cranmer Awards**. Julia triumphed against stiff competition to win the regional heats in January and on Saturday 24th February represented the West Midlands at the National Final in London where she came first out of 13 competitors from all over the country. The Cranmer Awards are organised by the Prayer Book Society and their aim is to encourage young people to get to know the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, with its rich language and central place in the spiritual foundation of the Church. Julia chose to learn by heart the Collect, Epistle and Gospel readings for the Third Sunday after Epiphany and was commended for her natural and reflective interpretation.



In the competition held at King Edward VI College, Stourbridge, on Monday evening 26th February, we entered two teams for a short preparation **Debating Competition**, where girls only have 15 minutes to prepare speeches! It was an excellent night of debating, with over 40 teams present. We debated the issues around criminal celebrities and catholic adoption agencies. The KEHS 'A' team consisted of Aliyah Akram and Srijanee Bhattacharyya, and the girls spoke with considerable flair and were ranked top at the end of the competition! A real achievement. Our B team consisted of Tiyasha Auddy and Rebecca Leach. They deserve particular credit for the professional performance they put on, especially as this was their first competitive debate.



Sondos Ibrahim (14) has won a national poetry competition run jointly by **Divine Chocolates and Christian Aid**. Divine produce fair trade chocolate and the competition was organised to draw young peoples' attention to the need for social justice in a world economy. Sondos's six stanza poem 'Let's start a Revolution!' won the 12 - 15 age group category. The poem shows a skilful manipulation of the verse form and movingly contrasts our affluence with the conditions of farmers in the developing world.

## U12 NETBALL TOURNAMENT

This took place on Thursday March 8th. We entered two teams and both teams played extremely well. Our 'A' team won all their matches in the first round without a goal being scored against them. They went through as section winners and played in the second round against Turves Green and EHS. The final result was that our 'A' team are now the winners. The team players: Phillipa Audley (Cap), Alice Sadler, Alice O'Donnell, Duaa Khair, Philippa Stacey, Rumaana Cassam, Alex Morton, Monisha Prasher.



This has been a very exciting time for KEHS in terms of our international exchange programme. Catherine Hodge and Katy McCrossan have spent the last six weeks attending Seymour College, an independent girls' school in Adelaide, Australia. Both Katy and Catherine have written extensively about the Australian education system and the different way of life in Australia on our school website. Please do have a look at their diary entries on our International Links page. Both girls have been extremely enthusiastic and would highly recommend the exchange programme to other KEHS students. To read about their experiences go to our website.

## NEW ZEALAND: Here we come.

We have, this term, welcomed Laura O'Gorman and Hayley Marriott from Rangi Ruru Girls' School, Christchurch New Zealand. They have just spent six weeks here joining Upper 4C and staying with Anna Dickson and Georgia Ramplin who will fly out to New Zealand in May.



## Links Across the World

# Religious Studies at KEHS

February 2007

## THE DEPARTMENT

The Religious Studies Department consists of full time Head of Department, Mrs. Alison Young and part time staff member, Mrs. Elizabeth Cummings.

## CURRICULUM

KEHS lies close to the heart of a vibrant multi-faith multicultural city. Our students come from a wide range of backgrounds – some religious - some not, all are equally welcome, and all are equally valued. The foremost aim is to ensure that the curriculum is inclusive so that every student feels able to make a significant contribution.

The Thirds (year 7) curriculum begins with a unit entitled 'Looking Inwards, Looking Outwards, thinking about ourselves and our experiences of living'. Students enjoy



exploring 'Ultimate Questions' which may link to both religious and secular world views. Study of Sacred Writings, in particular the Old Testament (fount of the three great Abrahamic faiths), then leads into an exploration of the Jewish faith. A visit to a local Synagogue enhances learning. Study in the Lower Fourth (year 8) continues with exploration of the Christian faith with a particular focus on the person and work of Jesus. Visits from Christian speakers, including a Minister,



are usual. Study of Islam follows and this is usually supported by a visit to a local Mosque. The Upper Fourth and Lower Fifth years (years 9 and 10) bring opportunities for exploration of the Hindu, Sikh and Buddhist faiths. Whenever possible visits to local places of worship are facilitated. Independent study is also encouraged with smaller groups of students organising their own visits and interviewing members of faith communities.

The popular and highly successful G.C.S.E. programme followed in years 10 and 11 focuses on study of Christianity (through a textual study of Luke's Gospel) and Judaism.



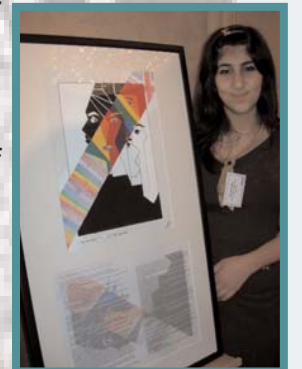
Learning is enriched through a number of visits and visitors, including a visit to Beth Shalom Holocaust Memorial Museum in Nottingham.

A level study is also popular (we currently have 19 Lower Sixth students) and incorporates philosophical, ethical, textual and sociological based approaches covering a broad range of skills. Enrichment comes in the form of day conferences, evening talks and visiting speakers, including academics from the University of Birmingham.



## A SUCCESSFUL DEPARTMENT

This is a Department with a stunning track record of academic success. In the summer of 2006 every candidate entered for AS and A level examinations attained a grade A. One AS student, Sarah Hindley, gained full marks on her papers whilst A2 student, Amy Taylor, was named amongst the top five Religious Studies candidates in the country. This repeats our success of earlier years. Three girls went on to read Theology at Oxford, Cambridge and Edinburgh. Of our G.C.S.E. students, 100% attained A or A\* grades (95% at A\*). The success of the Department also extends beyond examination results. Producing a stunning piece of artwork on the theme of 'Cultural Diversity', Donya Ghorbani of Upper 4C scooped the top prize in a national competition judged by David Lammy, MP and Parliamentary under-secretary for culture. Donya's prize, awarded by Barry Sheerman MP, Chair of the Select Committee on Education and Skills, included a night in a top London hotel! We have also recently heard news that three of our students, Laura Ralph (U5A), Victoria Bion (L5A) and Marie Genova (now living in the USA) have had their poems, written in R.S. lessons, accepted for publication in a volume entitled 'Spirited Poetry'. We are proud that Kristina Johansen of U5B produced the artwork which adorns the cover of the new R.E. Framework document, a copy of which is to be found in most, if not all, schools in the UK! We are proud of our students and their many talents.



## TRIPS

In the past the intrepid R.S. Department has led several highly successful trips as far a field as Israel and China. In the summer of 2005 we ventured to Prague in the Czech Republic where an excellent time was had by all. Plans are currently underway for a visit to Amsterdam (including Anne Frank's House) and Bruges in the summer of 2007. Visits abroad always have a strong curriculum focus though there is always time for cultural experiences and even a little shopping!



## OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENRICHMENT



We are always looking for ways to extend and enrich the learning of our students. Over recent weeks, we have welcomed Reverend Colin Tamplin to speak on Christian discipleship, Mr John Innes to speak on the work of Christian Aid and Mrs Ruth Jacobs to speak on the role of the Synagogue in Jewish living. We have also visited the University of Wolverhampton to hear a Holocaust survivor speak. Academics from the University of Birmingham have provided input on religious and philosophical approaches to theodicy and apocalyptic visions in Daniel. We have even been able to welcome Professor Ian Markham, Dean of Hartford Seminary in the USA, who flew in to deliver papers on Christian views of life after death and the authority of the Bible! Latest plans include a visit to the newly constructed Tirupathy Mandir in Tipton.

