

Directing the Future

Any chance of dressing up, is greeted by me with



alacrity, so I warmly responded to the invitation from John Phillips, Regional Director of the Institute of Directors' Midlands Region to attend their Annual Awards Dinner.

Little did I expect that I would walk away from the evening with the splendid award now adorning my study at school.

The Institute of Directors

is concerned with nurturing the next generation of business leaders and its members are very aware of the role schools play in this. The award recognises all the work that goes on at KEHS to prepare girls for the part they will play in tomorrow's world, leading all of society forward to a better future.

One-off events give girls different insights, such as the 'Challenge of Management Day' for the L6th in the summer term or the 'Celebration of Enterprise' week in November. The Economics Society allows the girls to explore wider issues such as sustainability, globalisation and the environment.

But underpinning all of this is our belief at KEHS that for the girls to become the great leaders of the next generation in whatever sphere they choose, they need to have had the opportunity to have thought long and deeply about society's needs, to have developed acute, analytical minds, warm hearts and empathetic natures. Everything that goes on at KEHS builds to this end and it was wonderful that the Institute of Directors recognised this with its Leadership Award 2007.

Sarah Evans

Parents could you help?

We are currently looking for voluntary 'Advisers' to help with the running of our 'Challenge of Management' event held on Friday 27th June 2008. This event helps prepare 16-17 year old students for the everyday pressures, thrills and dilemmas of the modern world of work.

To qualify, you must be able to share your working life skills and qualities and be able to join them for a whole day of challenging, enjoyable, beneficial and rewarding activities.

For more information, please collect a letter from Mrs. Tovey

Next Generation Award

Last year's L4 girls entered a competition organised by the Birmingham Civic Trust in which they worked in teams to come up with a suggestion to improve life for the people of Birmingham. They worked on it in their PDM lessons in the Spring Term. Having researched their ideas, they put together presentations that were performed before a panel of judges at the end of the term. All 9 of the teams from this school were awarded Gold, Silver or Bronze Awards by the Civic Society. Well done!

Particular congratulations are due to a group of girls from L4b who won a Gold Award, and who were subsequently asked to do their presentation at the Council House on Monday 26th November in front of the Lord Mayor, Lady Mayoress, Councillors and other invited guests.

Pardeep Wilkhu, Olivia Kuo, Charlotte Orr, Sophie Gammage, Emily Ratcliffe, Naomi Harryman, Philippa Buckley and Francesca Rees came up with the idea of a local radio station especially for young people. Birmingham Children's Radio would be a radio station run by teenagers for teenagers.

One of the reasons for choosing this was that the girls thought that young people do not engage sufficiently with local or national news, and this would be an alternative way for them to keep in touch with the news. They also saw it as a very positive way to occupy young people, and a means of keeping the young people of Birmingham in touch with each other.

Setting up a recording studio and getting the necessary licences was too expensive to be an attractive option, but the girls quickly realised that use could be made of a more accessible medium, and proposed that the radio station be set up using the MySpace facility on the internet.



Their plan involves selling advertising space to generate the necessary revenue, but with the proviso that any surplus funds are donated to a local charity, the Acorns Children's Hospice.

The photograph shows the girls in the prestigious surroundings of Birmingham Council House.

English at KEHS

December 2007

THE DEPARTMENT

The English Department consists of six teachers: Mr Hope; Mr MacKinnon; Mrs Moule (Joint Head of Department); Mrs Shore-Nye (Joint Head of Department); Miss Warne and Miss White.

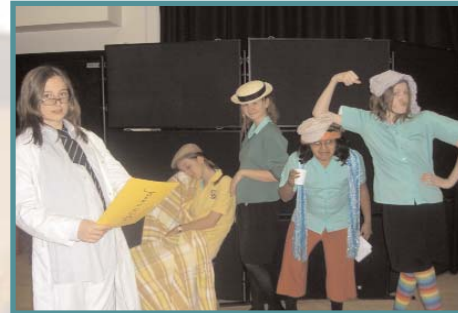
'The Curriculum

We aim to enable girls to be confident and proficient users of English. We want to encourage intelligent and discriminating reading and, most importantly, we want all our students to enjoy language and literature in all its forms.

The texts we teach cover the three genres of prose, poetry and drama and we aim to balance an appreciation of older texts alongside the analysis of more modern pieces. As a bare minimum we hope to cover at least a play, a novel and a selection of poetry in each term. The work on language and speaking and listening that we do grows out of our study of these texts.

The subject is incredibly popular amongst the girls and we currently have about a third of both the Lower and Upper Sixth studying advanced level English Literature. Fourteen girls in the Upper Sixth have applied to read English at university; they have been enjoying specialist lessons on Friday afternoons this term, in order to help them in this process.

This term our Upper Sixth girls have been frantically working away at their modern prose coursework. Girls have independently chosen texts and titles and then produced essays of 2,500 words which will contribute to their overall A2 score. We look forward to reading their work over the holidays although we have already had a tempting glimpse of some of their ideas when at a recent seminar lunch for sixth form and invited guests, Sophie Routledge presented her work on the unity to be found in James Joyce's *Dubliners* and Ruth Hobbs introduced us to one of Larkin's little known novels, *Jill*, discussing the nature of writing and Larkin's development as both novelist and poet.



Trips and Visits



We regularly take girls to theatre performances and workshops. In October the Lower and Upper Sixth went to see *Othello* at the Birmingham Old Rep. At the end of this term the Upper Fourth are going to see a stage adaptation of Malorie Blackman's *Noughts and Crosses*, in Stratford. Intrepid staff and Sixth Form will also be heading off to spend a weekend in Bronte country this December in order to immerse themselves in the world of *Wuthering Heights*. Rumours abound that they may even see the ghost of Branwell Bronte sitting in his favourite chair in The Black Bull!

In January the Lower and Upper Fifth have been invited to see a performance of *The Crucible* at The Birmingham Hippodrome. In February the theatre group MOPA are coming to school to workshop *A Midsummer*

Night's Dream with the Lower Fourth and *Romeo and Juliet* with the Lower Fifth.

Authors frequently visit school. In September Naomi Rich came to discuss her debut novel *Alis* with the Upper Fourth. In November the Thirds enjoyed a visit from Beth Webb, who shared her ideas on the importance of daydreaming, chocolate and bubbles in the creative and writing process! More authors are planned later on this academic year. Please see Mrs Moloney for further details.

Extra Curricular

The department organises a whole host of extra curricular activities, including: Shakespeare Society; Creative Writing; Cinematic Society; Stage Make-up Club and is closely involved with Miss Evans' Sixth Form Reading Group. Some of the activities we offer are profiled below.

Debating Society

This is open to all girls and boys in the sixth form. We meet regularly to hone our competitive debating skills and immerse ourselves in the worlds of current affairs, ethics and philosophy. So far this term we have had five debates (results printed below) and have one more planned before the Christmas holiday, a short preparation debate on a festive theme!

"This House would allow torture warrants for terror suspects"

Votes: For- 18; Against- 38; Abstentions-10

"This House would send a manned mission to Mars"

Votes: For-22; Against- 33; Abstentions- 12

"This House believes that Holocaust denial is not a crime"

Votes: For- 24; Against- 17; Abstentions-14

"This House would close the universities of Oxford and Cambridge"

Votes: For- 32; Against- 7; Abstentions- 17

"This House would DNA fingerprint at birth"

Votes: For- 23; Against- 12; Abstentions- 8



Read and Green



This group is open to Thirds and Lower Fourth. We meet each week to read prose passages aloud and drink hot chocolate! Topics we have read on this term include: life and death; time travel; animals - real and fantasy; horror; mystery and history. Authors have ranged from Dickens to Jacqueline Wilson! We are always looking for new members. Please come and join us!

Wider Reading

We want to encourage girls to read as widely and avidly as possible. Whilst we appreciate that time is precious and girls have many activities competing for their time, we feel that a life long love of reading is one of the most important gifts we can give our students. We actively encourage girls to make use of the superb fiction selection in our Junior and Senior Libraries. We do not issue reading lists. Instead we encourage girls to discuss their reading habits on a one- to-one basis with their English teacher who can then craft an individually tailored reading list based on their particular interests. We want the girls to recognise that reading is a great relaxation activity and we hope that all of the girls will find time this holiday to curl up on the sofa with a good book!

The pictures are of L4A's play the *Rude Mechanicals* from 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'



Loan of antique books to Erasmus Darwin House, Lichfield



Earlier this year the school loaned six valuable antique books about plants and herbs to the Erasmus Darwin House in Lichfield. This house was the home of the renowned scientist Erasmus Darwin (grandfather to Charles Darwin) from 1758 to 1781. The house has various

items that belonged to Erasmus Darwin with reconstructions of some of his scientific equipment. Also the fine herbal garden has been restored. Darwin wrote much about plant science and the books the school has loaned to the museum were written in and around Darwin's time. The loaned books are now on display in the house. Mrs Moloney, our school librarian, is seen visiting the book display.



Keep on Moving

T'was Monday morning and the time was 6.30am when four eager tennis players, Maddy Grant, Becky Davison, Grace Santos-Murphy and Lizzy Whitehouse were ready and raring to go.

The girls were armed with tennis rackets, plenty of food and water and the 'lucky pound'!

A thick white blanket of snow covered the roads; it was going to be an interesting journey to Corby!

The road ahead was winding and perilous, and the four girls would not have reached their destination had it not been for the guidance of Mrs Davies and her trusty Tom-Tom.

They arrived at the location, a tennis dome 1 ½ hours away, to be greeted by a referee, which meant the quarter finals of the Nestle Tennis Tournament was a serious affair and not to be taken lightly.

At last our team began their gruelling matches against their first and only opponents, the fearsome Queenswood who, we later heard, all had tennis scholarships to their school. We put up a fair fight and won a few good games but they definitely had a strong competitive edge playing confidently and consistently. The girls were not too downhearted due to Mrs Davies' consoling words which reminded them that they had got down to the last 32 schools in a national competition of 3000 entries.



To cheer us all up we had a noisy journey back with a sing song, followed by lunch at McDonalds, which included Happy Meal gifts of microphones which aptly played the song 'Keep on Moving....' This summed up

the girls' whole experience and made them look forward to the tennis challenges that might face them next year!

FRENCH POETRY COMPETITION

The French poetry competition organised by the Anglo-French Society took place this year on Wednesday 14th November at Birmingham University. Many girls entered the school competition and four girls were selected to represent the school: Haleema Hussain (U4A), Madeleine Lapworth (U4A), Olivia Kuo (U4B) and Laura Ralph (L6FP). They all did very well and Laura Ralph won first prize in her category. She was absolutely outstanding, she recited a poem written by Hughes Aufray (Adieu Monsieur le Professeur) with excellent pronunciation and intonation. Her interpretation was subtle yet moving. Well done to all girls who took part and a special BRAVO to Laura!



The Earth Summit, London 20th-21st November 2007

A group of twelve lower sixth and upper sixth girls, accompanied by Miss Rance, attended the 'Earth Summit' in London earlier this month.

The Earth Summit took place at the Odeon in Leicester Square.

On the first day, we were introduced to the expert speaker panel. They spoke individually, and provided us with their own view on climate change. The first of these speakers was Dr Mark McCarthy, a scientist working at the Hadley Centre. He provided us with compulsive evidence for climate change, and shocked us with an array of worrying statistics!

Donnachadh McCarthy was the second speaker, a leading environmental journalist, who writes frequently for The Independent. He was an interesting speaker, who suggested actions that we should all consider taking to prevent climate change. We were all impressed when he declared that he had a carbon footprint of zero, mainly due to his house which uses only renewable energy! The last speaker of the day was Professor Bill McGuire, a professor of geophysical hazards at University College London. He described to us what he believed would happen if immediate action was not taken to prevent global warming.

On the second day PowerPoint presentations were made by some of the schools present. The panel then discussed the content of these presentations and questions could be asked by the audience.

The day ended, with the creation of a 'conference statement' which was sent to the Prime Minister's Office. In order to do this, we were asked various questions including whether we agreed with evidence suggesting climate change, and whether we thought the Labour government were taking enough action for its prevention. We left the conference feeling that we had made a real difference!

Jo Gumley

Beth Webb's Visit

On Tuesday the 27th of November KEHS received a magically hilarious visit from the author of a quartet of four popular books beginning with Star Dancer.

During her 'one of a kind' visit to the school Beth proved to us how important it

is to daydream and use your imagination. After our all too short time with her we went off to our next lesson lost in the thoughts she had put into our minds.

Many authors just come to advertise their books but Beth was different. She just seemed to want to have fun and enjoy her visit.

Everyone said that they really enjoyed themselves and had let their imaginations run free. Quite a few students have been inspired to read her books following her visit. We can say with confidence that every single pupil enjoyed her visit enormously.

Lily Davies, Margot Sprague-Davies & Chloe Rose. 3C



All the staff and pupils at KEHS wish you Seasons' Greetings and a Happy New Year. Please check our website for more school news at:

<http://www.kehs.org.uk/news>