

## Violent Deaths. Forbidden Love. Enemies Reconciled.



Miss Proops provided us with an ingenious interpretation of the timeless Romeo and Juliet. The 2008 Senior Production burst onto stage as the audience were enraptured by the tragic love story set in 80's London. With a loud gunshot to announce the beginning of the play, the audience settled down to be amazed by the theatrical talents of KEHS/KES students.



The audience were carried along on the whirlwind journey of the star crossed lovers. With Beth Heaven as Juliet and James Taft as Romeo the two feuding families continued to battle out their differences despite the blossoming love of the youngest members of these two most influential families. Set against a stunning backdrop of the renowned balcony, the skinhead Capulets and the New Romantic Montagues had a final showdown resulting in the death of Mercutio and Tybalt which triggered off the catastrophic turn of events.

The whole cast was phenomenal in their portrayal of one of the most famous love stories ever written. The audience was captivated the entire time by the high professional acting talents of the students and everyone had a most memorable evening.

### Practice-a-thon Music



Practice-a-thon Music is a unique and simple fundraising event for CLIC Sargent which

encourages young musicians to pick up their instruments or start singing to support children with cancer and their families. Young musicians commit to practising their instruments for a set period, asking friends and family to sponsor them.

KEHS Practice-a-thon will take place during the two weeks from Monday 11th February. Participants are musicians of all ages and abilities.



Every day, 10 children and young people in the UK are diagnosed with cancer or leukaemia. CLIC Sargent is a lifeline, keeping families together when the unimaginable happens.



The Associated Board fully supports Practice-a-thon and wishes all participants lots of fun

with their practising. "Practice-a-thon is a fantastic way of nurturing musical talent" says Christine Morris of the ABRSM. As well as providing motivation and encouragement to practise for performance or music exams, it offers girls of all ages the perfect opportunity to really discover music for themselves.

### 'Doomed Youth' at the Crescent

"Doomed Youth is set in the year 3008. It begins with two archaeologists excavating what was once a museum in 20th century Britain. They have excavated a number of objects from the ruins: a feather, a shilling, a pack of cards, a packet of cigarettes, a newspaper, a rattle, a gas mask, a periscope, a cane, a pair of miniature gloves, and a stuffed pigeon wearing a parachute. However, these objects mean nothing to them, for all historical



knowledge has been destroyed in the Revolution of the 23rd century, when fundamentalists destroyed books, newspapers, magazines, films, videos, photographs and computers. The only way in which the archaeologists can identify the objects is to scan them with their "imager", a time-machine which can reclaim images from the past. Before their eyes images from the years 1914-18 come to life and soon we are watching a story about four young people in the First World War"

On Monday 28 January, the U4th boarded a coach to the Crescent Theatre in Birmingham to see the play 'Doomed Youth'. The trip was run by the History department to compliment our studies relating to World War One.

We had to wait in the foyer for what seemed like hours prior to the play, so we were very pleased when we finally got to go in.



However it was worth it as it was an excellent performance. The play was very informative and told us a great deal about what it was really like in the trenches, how conscientious objectors were treated and the role of women throughout the war.

**Ruth Maclean U4B**

# Electronics



Soldering and circuit design

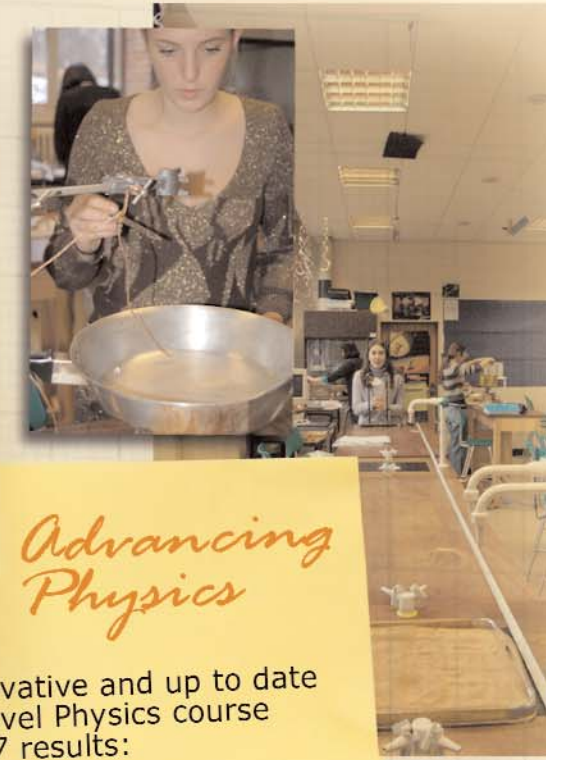
L4th option for 'Creative Living'



# Lower School

3rds and L4th  
Lots of interesting practical work

Builds solid foundation for GCSE



# Advancing Physics

Innovative and up to date A-Level Physics course  
2007 results:

AS grade	A	88%
grades	A/B	100%
A2 grade	A	64%
grades	A/B	91%

# KEHS Physics

# Trips

3rds Leicester Space Centre  
Planetarium star show  
Space 'Mission' to Mars



# Engineering Education Scheme



Team of four L6 girls  
Six month 'real' project  
guided and assisted by an engineer from IMI

Alton Towers  
Sixth Form  
Fun but educational  
Collection of real data  
Use of accelerometers, dataloggers and video cameras



# Alton Towers

# The Dept.

Dr Tedd  
Mrs Hall  
Dr Hayton  
Mr Gilbert

# Competitions

2005 Midlands Winners  
Paperclip Physics Competition (right)



2006 Winners  
Big Physics Quiz  
U4th West Midlands Schools Competition (left)

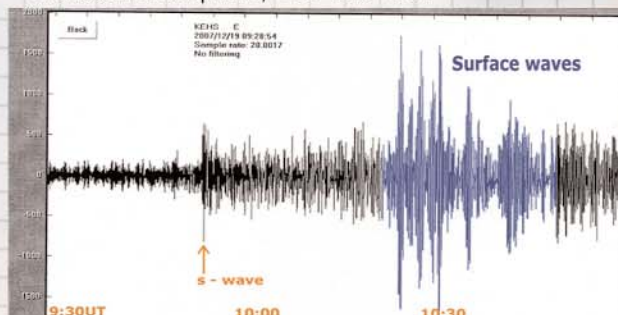
# GCSE

2007 results:

grade	A*	72%
grade	A*/A	92%

International GCSE course  
First examination 2008  
Well respected  
No coursework  
Lots of enrichment

Real data of the powerful Alaskan Earthquake, Dec 19th 2007



# Seismometer

Sixth Form  
Extracurricular  
Detection of earthquakes  
> 7 magnitude worldwide



# GCSE Astronomy

Pupils reach for the stars after signing up for new course

of the older winners in the world. It's been brought back up-to-date with this course of the subject - from Galileo through galaxies and beyond to Apollo space missions.



U4th to L6th Extracurricular  
Observation of the Moon, Sun and night sky  
Guided independent study



# Holocaust Memorial Day

To mark Holocaust Memorial Day 2008, a joint venture by the Religious Studies and History Departments saw Upper Fifth girls attending a lecture given by a Holocaust survivor, Gabor Hirsch.



The event, organised by the University of Wolverhampton, allowed Gabor to tell his story in his own words. Born and raised in Bekescsaba Hungary, Gabor was only 14 years old when he found himself transported to the death camp, Auschwitz.

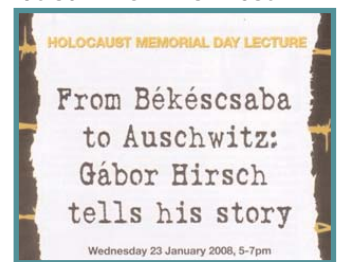
Gabor explained how successive anti-Semitic laws had marred his earliest years – laws such as those preventing Jews travelling on public transport or restricting access to University. Sadly, even before the terrible events of the 'Shoah' (literally: 'burning wind'), Hungarian Jews were subject to massacres.

Gabor and his family were eventually ghettoised, living in old tobacco drying sheds before finally being transported to the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp in Poland. Gabor had managed to locate documents detailing his arrival at Auschwitz on the 29th June, 1944. Of those who survived the initial 'selection'; Gabor particularly remembers sets of twins personally 'saved' from immediate death by Dr. Mengele.

As a teenage boy, Gabor was assigned to menial tasks. He emptied latrines and transported food. Anyone who could not work was immediately sent to the gas chambers. At 14 years old, Gabor's daily routine involved getting up at 4.00 am. A lengthy roll call could extend for many hours. Breakfast consisted of 'substitute coffee' and occasionally black bread. Lunch consisted of a few dried vegetables and the evening 'meal' of a small piece of bread with margarine and occasionally a little cheese. Gabor was sometimes assigned work. On one occasion he was assigned to dig a ditch near the women's camp and caught a fleeting sight of his mother, who sadly did not survive. His most poignant memory was when he managed to give his mother a gift of a small piece of bread.

On the 21st January 1945, Gabor's Nazi guards deserted the Camp. They had forced all the 'walking' prisoners on a death march but Gabor survived by hiding during roll call. After the Russians liberated Auschwitz, Gabor's journey home was to take longer than the 7 months he had been in Auschwitz.

At 82 years of age, Gabor Hirsch is a living testimony not only to the horrors of the Nazi genocide but also to the human spirit and will to survive. It was our privilege to hear his words first hand.



## Russian Exchange

We were pleased to welcome our friends from School no.21, Arkhangel recently. We have had a link for several years, and have visited them twice, but this was their first visit to us, and the first time in England for all of them.

The visitors stayed with the families of girls in the L5th Russian group, and spent an active week, packing as much as possible into their short stay. We took them to Warwick, Stratford-on-Avon, and of course London, where they were able to see the sights they had read so much about in their English lessons back home. They also spent a day in school, where they were bemused by the unfamiliar traditions of uniform and morning assembly.

Their trip to England was something quite ambitious, as Arkhangel is in a remote part of Russia, near the White Sea and close to the Arctic Circle. Just reaching St. Petersburg, to catch their plane, involved a 26 hour train journey. We had no need to worry about them dealing with the unwelcoming English winter weather, as winter temperatures in Arkhangel regularly reach minus 30c! Indeed, on walking out of Birmingham airport building, they immediately exclaimed, 'Spring!'.

In March, several of the L5th Russian group will be making the same journey in reverse, to spend a week in Arkhangel. Look out for a full report on our return.

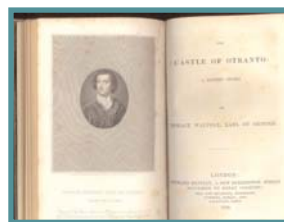


## Reading Group

The staff/sixth form reading group enjoyed a wide ranging discussion on Horace Walpole's 'The Castle of Otranto' at their January meeting.

The group were divided in their views on how good a novel it is. All found it significant in terms of its place in the history of the English novel and the beginnings of the Romantic movement in this country with its associated Gothic fascination. But some of the group had found it a frustrating read with the pace of the novel rushing at times yet dragging in places.

Equally frustrating were the female characters who presented as victims with little control or interest in control over their own lives. The group found it a little hard to identify with these saintly stereotypes! The male characters were not engaging either although rather more interesting than the females, especially the main protagonist, Manfred the Prince of Otranto.



The next meeting on Wednesday 12th March at 4.15 will discuss Oliver Goldsmith's 'She Stoops to Conquer'. Parents are always most welcome at these meetings.

We are now approaching the last few weeks of the Hockey and Netball seasons.

This year the new sport of "Fives" was added as an option for sixth form games as well as an extra lunchtime club activity for lower school pupils. During March the school will be entering a team in the National Schools' Fives competition. Good Luck to all the players. Also taking place during March is the National Schools' Fencing competition. Once again we wish our team "Good Luck!" The School Football team have just begun their Birmingham Schools' Power League matches again. They got off to a good start, recording both a win and a draw.

Rehearsals for the Dance Production are now well under way. The performances are on Tuesday 11th, Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th March. Tickets are available from the PE office priced at £5 per adult and £4 per concession.

During the Christmas holidays, several of our younger pupils attended "Super Camps" with will run again during half term.

## P.E. Report