

Double Success for RS Girls



Students in the R.S. Department are enjoying double success in not one but two prestigious national competitions.

Sara Lo Polito (L5B) and Chloe Murphy (L4K) have won prizes in the NASUWT 'Arts and Minds' competition which focuses on celebrating cultural diversity and challenging prejudice. As part of their prize, the girls enjoyed a trip to London, a stay in a top London hotel and a ride on the London Eye!

Rosemary Walmsley (L5A) won top prizes and were invited to the House of Lords to receive their awards from Baroness Cox.

In keeping with prizes won in earlier years, the R.S. Department will donate money to various charities, including Save The Children.

In a second competition run by 'Christian Projects', Maria Czepiel (L5B) and

Well done R.S. girls!

RS GIRLS ON TOUR!

Queen Victoria may not have been amused but KEHS Religious Studies A and GCSE level students certainly were when they boarded Cunard Queen Victoria for an excellent cruise to Holland, Belgium and France.

The RS focus of the trip saw us visit the Anne Frank house and a number of other sites in Amsterdam associated with the holocaust. Belgium and France afforded ample opportunities to experience stunning Church architecture. On board the vessel, a great time was had by all with sumptuous dining and a busy programme of events which included a classical recital but also line dancing and karaoke! Cultural experiences abounded with an excellent visit to the Van Gogh museum in Amsterdam and chocolate tasting in Brugges. A great trip.... but where will the intrepid RS Dept. venture next?!

It has been a busy start to the term and we have been pleased to welcome visitors from the Birmingham branch of the British Humanist Association. John Edwards and Victoria Denning led a lunchtime session for sixth form students which focused on secular approaches to the meaning and purpose of life. Reverend Anthony Perry responded with a session on a Christian view of the meaning and purpose of life. Anthony also addressed U4th students on the relevance of Christian teaching today.

Best of all, KEHS was selected by the Professional Council for Religious Education and lesson materials on Existentialism and Classical Theism were trialed in School. It is a mark of the standing of the Department and a great encouragement to us all to have been recognised in this way.



A World Apart

Two parties of KEHS girls head in opposite directions across the world to experience trips of a lifetime. Surina Mehta reports on her trip to Africa and Charlotte Hibbs on her trip to Mongolia.



Africa 2010

On 10th July 2010, nineteen excited girls and two teachers arrived at Heathrow airport, eager to begin their African adventure.

After twenty-four hours of flying we landed in Namibia, tired from our long journey. We were greeted by Vic, our guide; we loaded our luggage on to the truck that would be our home and mode of travel for the duration of our trip. When we arrived at our campsite, we quickly ate our dinner around a campfire and fell asleep under the stars - a wonderful view that we would experience for the next fortnight.

The next day we visited the local school. The children were visibly overjoyed to see us and any efforts to help teach their classes were quickly abandoned as we played with them and allowed them to take photos on our cameras. They all had a fascination with our sunglasses and any opportunity to try them on was grasped with excitement. We had arrived at the school with boxes of toys, books, pens and pencils; items that we take for granted but are so precious to them. The children were so appreciative of these gifts and performed some traditional songs and dances for us to say thank you.

Namibia had much to offer us; we sand boarded and went quad biking down large sand dunes (obtaining a few injuries along the way!) and watched numerous seals lazing about at Skeleton Coast. We saw many different animals throughout our trip, and also managed to have close encounters with cheetahs, lions and a young giraffe!

After driving through national parks and seeing many other animals, we arrived in Botswana where we were guided along the Okavango Delta by polers in 'Makoros', which are traditional boats. Thankfully, nobody fell in, though some braved the freezing cold water to have a much needed wash!

Next we arrived in Zambia where we visited the Victoria Falls, one of the largest waterfalls in the world, whose indigenous name, quite fittingly, means the 'Smoke that Thunders'. Some of us had a spectacular view of the waterfall from a helicopter, whilst others walked with lions and even bungee jumped over the Victoria Falls Bridge!

We had a fantastic trip, managing to practise bartering with the locals and encountered many animals, including some cheeky monkeys trying to steal people's food! We met new people and enjoyed new experiences which we will look back on fondly for years to come.

Mongolia 2010

On the 13th of July 2010 nineteen of us set off from school ready for a completely new experience. There were sixteen girls (all in pink), two World Challenge leaders (Simon and Kevin) and Mrs Lancaster.

As we arrived in Ulaan Bator the capital of Mongolia, after our twelve and half hour journey, we began to gather supplies for the rest of our trip at the black market. This really was an experience in itself as there were many eager vendors trying to catch our attention.

The next day we set out on our three day journey for Murun Brigade, this was the village in which we were to carry out our project work.

The school where we were helping out was the largest building in the area as we were in a very remote village. We began our work by painting rooms within the school. Some of the group were more adept than others! Unfortunately some white window sills were decorated with blue paint instead of the required white. More enjoyable than the painting was the time we got to spend with the children teaching them English, Geography and basketball. When we left the school we left with lots of great memories and we gave the children as a parting gift equipment for the school including- hair clips, toothbrushes and a teddy bear for each of the children.

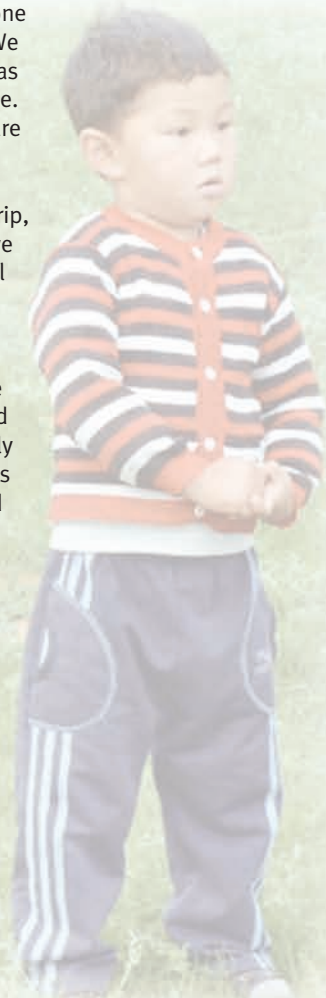
The second week of our trip was our horse trek. During this time each night was spent in our tents, this was not something many of us had looked forward to. However the first morning when we opened the doors of our tents we were hit with a spectacular view, making us realise how incredible the landscape was in this country.

Each morning of the horse trek we had to mount our horses. This was easier said than done due to the immense task that faced us. We struggled to even to mount our horses as they seemed so wild and uncontrollable. These are horses that, during the winter, are left to roam freely on the plains.

Three quarters of the way through our trip, we began our foot trek. For three nights we stayed in a Mongolian 'ger' - a traditional nomadic home, sleeping on the floor and eating traditional Mongolian food.

On the last stage of our adventure we returned to Ulaan Bator for rest and relaxation including a brief dip in some lovely hot springs. However in Mrs Lancaster's case it was not really a dip as she stayed submerged in the hot waters for over three hours!!! Mongolia made up just one part of our expedition - we also spent three days in Beijing visiting the Great Wall of China, the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace and the Temple of Heaven.

This was a trip that opened our eyes to a very different culture and a very different way of life.



LIFESAVING DOUBLE ACT!

On the 18th September Anuja Pathak and Emma Newman competed at the Regional Heats for the National Lifesaving Competition.



They were up against more experienced pairs so there was a lot of pressure. There were four events in this competition; the line throw where both competitors have to throw a rope twelve metres to a casualty and pull them to safety. Emma and Anuja won this event.

Then there was the swim and tow where each competitor has to swim 50 metres and tow a casualty 50 metres. Emma and Anuja also won this event. The next event was a first aid incident where a child was unconscious and the bystander

was in shock. Our intrepid pair came third.

The final event was a water incident where various different swimmers were in trouble and the girls had to react and deal with this. Overall they were joint second on scores but because the rescue incidents hold higher points it put the girls in 4th place. They have learnt a great deal from the competition and hopefully they will have another go next year with the extra experience moving them up in the placings.

Congratulations girls!

Space Day At Birmingham University

As part of the National Festival of Science being held in Birmingham this year, the University of Birmingham Physics department held a day focused on Space and Black Holes on Saturday 19 September. Twelve girls (9 U4, 2 L5 and 1 L6)

and many of their parents attended a series of lectures and activities that included building rockets, looking at the 'stars' under a portable planetarium and investigating Black Holes through computer games. Fun was had by all.

SUPERCONDUCTIVITY EVENING LECTURE AT BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY

The Institute of Physics and West Midlands Physics Teachers' Centre provide a series of lectures, which are of interest to students studying A-level Physics. The first one at the beginning of October was attended by six A-level Physicists who were entertained and intrigued by the behaviour of materials at very low temperatures.

RESEARCHER IN RESIDENCE

The Biology department are very pleased to welcome a Researcher in Residence, Dr. Flores to the department

Dr. Flores received her PhD in Immunology by the The National School of Biological Sciences in Mexico in 2005, from where she moved to The Rockefeller University in the USA to work in dendritic cells and methods to improve vaccine delivery and immune response to them. She carried on working on DC biology at the University of Oxford for two years, focusing on the initial encounter of prions and dendritic cells in the gut. In 2008 she moved to the University of Birmingham to work with Dr. Cunningham studying how the immune response to Salmonella develops and how it could be optimised for vaccines.

Dr. Flores will run teaching sessions and workshops with the L6th when they are covering Immunology during the AS course. She will also talk to the lower and upper sixth about her career as a research scientist. Individual pupils will benefit from her expertise as they prepare for university interviews. An after school workshop on Prions is also planned.

The Biology department are very excited about the opportunities offered by working alongside Dr. Flores and we hope she gains as much enjoyment and benefit working with us as we will undoubtedly gain from her expertise and experience.

SPORTING SUCCESS

Congratulations to the U18 hockey team who have won through to the regional hockey tournament which will take place in November.

NATIONAL POETRY DAY 7TH OCTOBER 2010

To mark National Poetry Day non-teaching and teaching staff provided a favourite poem for a display outside the library, and form teachers read a poem to their forms. It was refreshing to see such great variety in the choices. Poetry books were scattered around the library for girls to peruse to encourage them to enjoy this wonderful means of expression.

Here were the choices made by the staff.

Mrs Coleman	Stop All the Clocks	WH Auden	Madame Laurent	C'albatros	Charles Baudelaire
Dr Popat-Stabries	Epigramme Bumerang	Voltaire Jordin Ringelmate	Mrs Neal	Footprints in the Sand	Anonymous
Mrs Kavanagh	To sleep If	John Keats Rudyard Kipling	Mrs Young	The Presence Tinton Abbey	R.S. Thomas William Wordsworth
Mrs Moloney	Tyger, Tyger	William Blake	Mrs Tovey	Funeral Blues Getting Married	W.H. Auden Kahlil Gibran
Mrs Merrall	The Road Not Taken	Robert Frost	Mrs Hodgson	Remember I wish I could remember that first day He wishes for the cloths of Heaven	Christina Rossetti Christina Rossetti WB Yeats
Mrs Lancaster	Jim	Hilaire Belloc	Mrs Hosty	A Slice of Wedding Cake	Robert Graves
Miss Evans	Remembrance	Emily Bronte	Mrs May	I wandered lonely as a cloud	William Wordsworth
Mrs Shore-Nye	Ode to a Nightingale	John Keats	Mr Cooper	A Shropshire Lad	Housman
Ms Pallister	Hyperion	John Keats			

ORIGAMI CLUB

We have many wonderful extra-curricular activities at KEHS. Gabby Chan, in the U6th, runs the Origami Club - these pictures show what fun some of the girls had at the first few sessions of the club.

