

# KEHS News

March 2008

## Scintillating Success Stories

### French Reading Competition Success



Congratulations to Rainbow Crawford in the U6th who won first prize at the Anglo-French Society Birmingham's French reading competition. Sondos Ibrahim and Abida Siddiqua also

claimed first prize in the year 11 competition. All the girls had to read from a set piece of French text with the 6th form reading from Mauriac's Therese 'Desqueyroux', whilst the year 11 girls read a passage from Becket's 'Waiting for Godott'. In the 6th form competition Erin Wollaston came a very creditable third with Susie Quirke, Madeline Grant, Jasmine Gardosi and Rebecca Bowen gaining highly commended. Well done to all the girls.

### PE Success

Congratulations to our under 13 Netball team who became the champions of Birmingham in a very close and exciting tournament. The whole squad did themselves proud and they thoroughly deserved their success. Well done!

Our under 12 netball teams also performed extremely well in the Birmingham Schools' tournament with the A team coming second in the competition.

Our young group of "fencers" has also been making excellent progress. 11 girls have recently been awarded with their bronze proficiency award certificates. Well done to them all.

Football club has once again been flourishing with girls from all years attending. The under 15 team are mid-table in the Power League.

The PE department celebrated the end of term with a 'fun festival' . Girls from the 3rds to the U6th played in mixed teams against each other in both hockey and netball.



### And all That Jazz.....

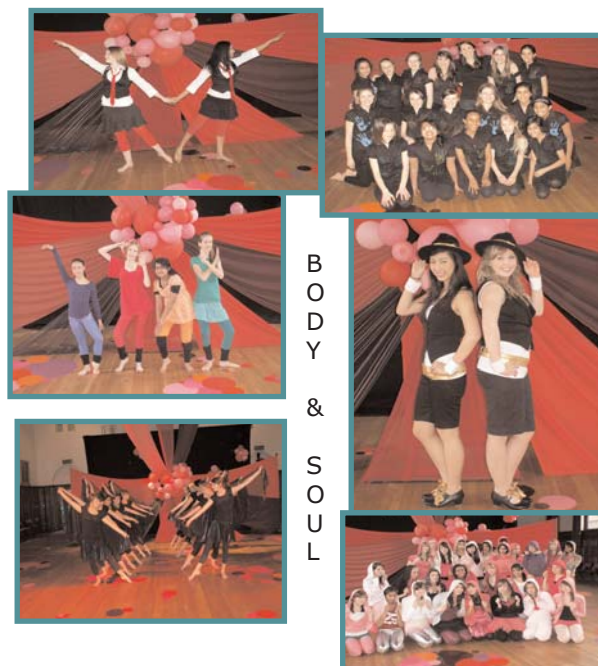
The school's very first Charity Jazz Evening, hosted by the Parents' Association, was held on Thursday 6th March. KEHS and KES Big Band got the evening off to a toe tapping start, followed by the school's gospel choir Chorus; this was the first opportunity for the girls to perform in public and they certainly rocked the house with their renditions of some gospel favourites. Ralph Allin, the Jazz Musician of the Year, was excellent and a real inspiration to all of our musicians. £1526 was raised during the evening for 'CLICSargent' a charity supporting children with cancer. Special thanks must go to Mrs Timms for organising such a wonderful evening.



### Dance Production 2008

#### 'BODY & SOUL'

This year the 'Dance Production' was based on the theme of the human body. The various groups chose a real variety of music which ranged from classic tracks like 'Rain drops keep falling on my head' to the funky beats of 'Lose control'. The dancers' costumes were amazing all thanks to the hard work of staff and many willing parents. Visit the school website to view a gallery of the images.



B  
O  
D  
Y  
&  
S  
O  
U  
L

# Performing Arts at KEHS

March 2008

Romeo & Juliet



Making Music



Town Hall Concert



Creative Writing



Jazz Evening



Greek Day



Set Building



Dance Production



## Pretty, Pretty, Bang, Bang



This term the Chemistry department took all of our year 9 students to a lecture by Dr Jackie Akhavan, Senior Lecturer at Cranfield University in the Department of Environmental and Ordnance Systems. The lecture was organised the West Midlands Chemistry Teachers' Centre and the University of Birmingham. The main theme of the lecture related to the chemistry involved in the development of fireworks and explosives.

She started off explaining what a firework actually was and how the different parts are used to achieve the different effects that you see. This led onto how the various colours that you see in a firework are obtained. Red, green and yellow flames were formed from commercial manufactured pellets. We then moved onto a blue coloured flame, which is a far more difficult colour to achieve, due to the wavelength. Rachel Clements volunteered and helped to show the different effects that can be obtained with sparklers. Jackie then discussed the cause of the Bang which is associated with virtually all fireworks that we use today. Recent developments into fireworks of the future allowed Jackie to show us a firework which has a controlled strobe effect, flashing on and off at timed intervals. The girls enjoyed all of the special effects and saw how entertaining Chemistry can be.

## Young Enterprise and Their Venture with Hallfield School

The Young Enterprise company 'Pump It' went along to Hallfield School, this term where they held a workshop with 3 - 5 year olds to do their business bit for the community!

It involved getting the pupils to sit with company members and customising their PE pumps with their names and a small design. The company members had great fun with the little ones and at the same time got some great product design ideas as well as a good turnover from the venture. Not bad - earning money and enjoying the work too! See the school website for a gallery of images from the visit.



## Safety Concerns

Our community police officer has raised the following points.

Could all parents please ensure that when they are collecting or dropping off their daughters that they are not using their mobile phones whilst they are driving unless, of course, they are using a hands free set. He stated that all parents should ensure that there are only be three backseat passengers in each car and that all back seat passengers use their seat belts.

## Parents could you help?

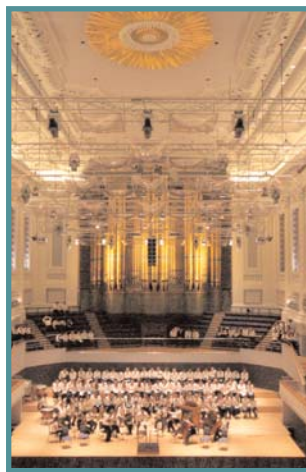
We are currently looking for voluntary 'Advisers' to help with the running of our 'Challenge of Management' event to be held on Friday 27th June 2008. This event helps prepare 16-17 year old students for the everyday pressures, thrills and dilemmas of the modern world of work.

To assist, 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.

## Sing and Symphony

On Thursday 28th February it was 'back to the Town Hall' and what a return!. Until the building was closed for renovation in the late 90s it had been our permanent 'concert home' and it was marvellous to see again the sumptuously refurbished interior. The concert began with a bang and a flourish - Berlioz' stirring overture Le Corsaire followed by an exhilarating performance of Tchaikovsky's Romeo and Juliet.



After spending ten minutes outside following a fire alert during the interval (fortunately a false alarm!) the second half of the concert was a performance by the Choral Society of Haydn's exciting Nelson Mass with professional soloists Natalie Clifton-Griffith (Soprano), Jenny Mason (alto) Robert Gardiner (Old-Ed and tenor) and Fran Ambrose (bass). There was an orchestra of pupils and friends and the work was conducted by Mr. Martin Monks. Mr Monks had

painstakingly drilled the Choral Society who sang with great confidence. The large audience greeted the performances with enthusiasm and many were asking when we would return to the Town Hall again.

## A Trip of a Lifetime

We have been in England for just over four weeks and what an amazing four weeks it has been.

We have been on many adventures, up the Eiffel tower, down the French Alps, along the London tube amongst others. We have made some awesome friends. There are many words to describe England but the one that we feel tops it all off would have to be: COLD!

Rangi Ruru Girls' School is similar in many ways to KEHS but different in many others. At home we do not get quite as much homework and our school days start at 8:15 a.m and finishes at 3:30 p.m. At lunch times we don't really tend to sit inside to eat our lunch, we like to sit on the school field in the sun and have the occasional water fight.

We have been made to feel so welcome by all the girls in green; they have always been there to point us in the right direction, including the time when we accidentally wandered into the boys school thinking we were still in the girls school. Yes, we did find it a bit strange that there were lots of boys around, we just assumed THEY were lost ! ... Ooops ...

We have been teased on countless occasions about our accents, on the expressions we use and on numerous occasions, our traditional Maori dance, our Haka. Yes, we have had our ups and downs, but this



exchange, and I know you've heard it before, has truly been a once in a life time opportunity, and if given the chance to do it again, we wouldn't have to think twice.

By Isabella Aldridge and Annabel Wheelans, New Zealand exchange students, 2008