

KEHS News

June 2008

GROUNDBREAKING LINK-UP LAUNCHED

BETWEEN GREAT BARR SCHOOL & KING EDWARD VI HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS (KEHS), ARTHUR TERRY & COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOLS COMPLETE THE PARTNERSHIP.

On Monday 19th May Government Schools' Minister Lord Adonis announced a grant to the partnership of £304,950 benefiting nearly 1,000 pupils over the next three school years. This round of the Independent State School Partnership (ISSP) programme aims to improve uptake, attainment and university entry of pupils in science, maths and modern languages from partner schools through joint working, and to develop and embed the partnership for mutual benefit.

The scheme brings together the complementary strengths of our own school with Great Barr School, the UK's largest secondary school with nearly 2,500 pupils and a Specialist Science College, with Arthur Terry and College High pupils also benefiting from joint work.

Early plans include a major summer school this year, joint teacher training, exchanges and professional development; 'master-classes' in sciences, maths, astronomy and modern languages, and world-best use of the internet to support the partnership. Pupils will participate in research projects and will help develop community maths and science programmes. A science study visit to a tropical rainforest is also under discussion.



Miss Evans commented "We are proud of the range of activities our girls are able to participate in. This programme will extend these even further and enable us to focus on some complementary curriculum areas where the exchange of skills experience will benefit all the partner schools.

We have run summer schools previously under this programme, but this is breaking new ground in developing a longer-term relationship with mutual benefits for all partner schools. We are already planning a range of exciting initiatives and a genuine exchange of strengths which we are confident will have a positive effect on the teachers and pupils involved."

Great Barr School acting Head teacher, Margaret Potter said, "We are very excited at this opportunity for our pupils to extend the boundaries of their studies and to develop new challenges for our pupils

with partner schools. We will exchange our complementary strengths for the benefit of staff, pupils and schools. We want more pupils embracing these subjects and raising their aspiration to pursue them to university level."

"We plan world-leading 'E-learning' resources, the development of international links, work with partner universities and the National Space Centre and to introduce Mandarin Chinese as part of the programme. These are just a few examples of the areas we will develop for the benefit of pupils."

COUNTING ON A HIGHER CHALLENGE

As a result of her excellent performance in the Intermediate Mathematics Challenge, Gabrielle Chan (L5A) was invited to participate in the Intermediate Mathematics Olympiad. This is a 2 hour paper consisting of 6 questions, for which full written and explained answers are required.

Gaby was awarded a Certificate of Distinction and a Medal (awarded to the top 100 out of 1450 participants). Gaby was also invited to attend the National Mathematics Summer School in July. Her solution to question 3 has been chosen to be published on the UKMT website (www.ukmt.org.uk) as it shows an excellent approach and would help others preparing for the Olympiad paper in the future.



Classics at KEHS

June 2008

The Department

The Classics Department consists of Mr T.O.Cooper (Head of Department), Dr C.E.Gruzelier, Miss R.M.Medlock and Miss H.D.Rankin. The Department also receives a Classics trainee from Cambridge University for the spring and summer terms each year.

Curriculum

The Classics Department is a very well resourced, thriving, and successful department, which seeks to provide a positive academic experience of Classical culture through the study of the Latin and Greek language, literature, and social and historical background. We hope to stimulate in our students a great curiosity about the ancient past, and an awareness and appreciation of the wide and enduring influence that the societies of Rome and Greece have upon the present day. The Classical world makes a unique contribution to modern society, and helps us to understand where many modern ideas begin.

The study of Latin and Greek impacts upon virtually every other subject in the curriculum.

The Department offers courses in Latin, and Greek to GCSE level, and Latin, Greek, and Classical Civilisation to A level (Ancient History in the present L6th). The Thirds have 1 lesson of Classical Civilisation, as part of their rotating blocks, and in this they are provided with a brief introduction to the Classical world, including study of the gods of ancient Greece, and an exploration of some areas of daily life through the medium of stories, dressing-up, art and drama. Some basic Greek language is also studied. Latin is begun in the L4th, and the Cambridge Latin Course is used as the course book. This integrates a study of the language with a study of social and historical material. In Book 1 girls will study Pompeii, including topics such as houses, everyday life, the baths, slavery, gladiators, schools, the eruption of Vesuvius etc. In Book 2 the scene changes to Roman Britain, in the years following the invasion of 43 AD, and girls learn about the lives lived by our ancestors 2,000 years ago. In the U4th girls study various aspects of Egypt and Alexandria, before returning in



Book 3 to Britain to look at Bath, the Army, and Travel. Book 4 completes the paralinguistic study with a concentration on Rome itself, the buildings, population, lives of the different classes, entertainments, Christianity, relations with Jews etc.

During their first 3 years of Latin girls will acquire the necessary linguistic skills to enable them to cope successfully with the GCSE course, which consists of 3 elements: language, literature, and life.

A significant number of girls opt to study Classical Greek in the 2 year course to GCSE.

Athenaze, a reading-based course, similar in ethos to the CLC, is used. Alongside the language, important aspects of Athenian social and political life, mythology, and achievements are studied. Literature(Homer, Plato etc) forms an important element of the GCSE examination.

Latin is a popular choice at A Level, with 2 sets in each year of the Sixth Form. There is 1 set for Greek, and 1 for Classical Civilisation/Ancient History. Girls combine Classical subjects with a wide variety of other A Levels. In both Latin and Greek A levels a further study of language and literature is undertaken. In Latin authors such as Ovid, Virgil, Tacitus, and Cicero are set for study, and Homer, Sophocles, Xenophon, and Plato in Greek. In Ancient History girls are studying the Early Empire, the reign of Nero, and the City of Rome. In Classical Civilisation the modules are Greek Tragedy, Roman Epic, and Athenian Vase Painting (coursework). Both are source-based subjects, with the ancient sources studied in translation.



Trips, Visits, and Enrichment Opportunities

The study of Classics extends well beyond the classroom, and we organise various trips and opportunities. The Thirds have a Roman Day in the Summer Term, when they are visited by a Roman soldier and a Roman lady from Deva (Chester). They do various activities as an introduction to beginning Latin in the L4th. The L4th visit Verulamium(St Albans), where they can see the only surviving Roman theatre, a splendid hypocaust and mosaic, and an excellent museum. To complement their study of Bath, the U4th go on a trip to Aquae Sulis, where a visit to the impressive baths complex and museum brings to life the passages they read in Book 2. The L5th visit Corinium(Cirencester), once a major town in Roman Britain. Here they are able to see wonderful mosaics and evocative recreations of rooms. We organise various trips for our Sixth Formers: to the British Museum to see the wonderful exhibits, and for handling sessions of artefacts, to theatres in London and Birmingham to see the great tragedies and comedies of Greek playwrights. In December 2007 a group of U6th formers were taken to Rome, and we have been on regular trips, jointly with KES, to the Bay of Naples area. There are many other ways in which we seek to promote an interest in Classics, for example: the mosaic hanging in the dining room the ever-increasing number of wall paintings, the talks given by Lizzie Nabney and Millie Ismail on Greek drama at recent 6th form Seminar lunches.



A Successful Department

The Classics Department consistently achieves excellent results in public exams, for example

In 2007 Latin GCSE A*/A 78% Greek GCSE A*/A 100%

Latin A Level A 100% Greek A Level A 100%

On a number of occasions 6th form students have gained top 5 awards at A level, and we have twice received an award from the Good Schools' Guide as having the best Classics Department in the country in terms of numbers and results at A Level. We have an excellent record in our students gaining places to study Classics at Oxbridge, and many other students go to other universities to read Classics, Classical Civilisation, Ancient History, Latin etc. Former students who studied Classics etc at university can be found prospering in a whole host of different occupations today (some even in teaching in schools and universities!).

Far from Classics being dead, they are immortal!



ART GOOD NEWS

Katie Cottam was the winner in her class of over 18s in the Kodak/RBSA 'The World Through your Eyes' drawing and painting competition.

She was awarded the first prize of £250 worth of Art materials from Jackson's Art Suppliers.

Katie's piece featured her younger sister who was also at the RBSA presentation on Thursday, May 15th along with Mr. and Mrs. Cottam.



Jessica Ostrowicz, L6E, first became interested in Picasso when she studied 'Cubism' in the U4th. She also produced several 2D and 3D pieces inspired by him on her GSCE Art course. Jessica's fascination with Picasso's response to the brutal bombing on April 16th 1937 of the Spanish village of Gernika and the resulting masterpiece, 'Guernica' has continued.

As one of five 6th formers trialing the new AQA BACC, Jessica has submitted an outstanding illustrated study. On Thursday, May 1st, Jess gave a most inspiring and informative presentation to an invited audience of staff and fellow Sixth formers.

Sunday visit to Tate Britain for the L5th.

All the current L5th GCSE Art students spent a wonderful day at Tate Britain on Sunday, March 9th. The morning was spent looking at the permanent collection and an outstanding exhibition on 'Drawing'. After a picnic lunch overlooking the Thames, the girls toured the two special exhibitions: 'The Camden Town Group' and the inspirational 'Peter Doig' show. For many this was their first visit to a major London Gallery and although it was a very tiring day the girls enjoyed it enormously. The work they are now producing is exciting and energetic and directly linked to their day.

Spare places on the bus were taken by some of the 6th form artists who were able to prepare for their end of year exam by accompanying Ms Seamark on a river boat from The Tate to Tate Modern.

ACTION PACKED WEEK at KEHS



We are really looking forward to our action packed activities week beginning on 16th June. There will be visits from "Explorer Dome", an inflatable planetarium providing the venue for a host of interactive science shows, there will be

workshops with Tropical rainforest animals as well as visits from established authors and artists. Extra curricular activities like this are an excellent way of expanding students'

knowledge and encouraging them to be inquisitive about the wider environment in which we live. We are sure this is going to be a fun packed week for both students and staff alike.



PE GOOD NEWS

The summer season is well under way and the weather has been good to us so far.

The rounders teams have all been in action and we have managed to win most of our games. A special mention should be given to the Under 12 team who played their first match and were outstanding as they won by 38 rounders to 29. Let's hope this is the start of things to come!!

Our tennis season began with us hosting The Midland Girls' Lawn Tennis League Tournament with 11 teams entering its 97th year of competition. Each school brought two couples to compete. Becky Davison and Grace Santos-Murphy did extremely well to reach the semi finals in the second couples tournament.

Apart from the Nestle Tournament and various friendly interschool matches, this year we are hosting the Fry Cup. This is a traditional tournament played between the schools of 'The King Edwards Foundation' and this year King Edwards Fiveways are hoping to enter a team for the first time to play against ourselves, Handsworth and Camp Hill. The L5th Sports Leaders group will be helping to make sure the day runs smoothly.

We took seven athletes to The South Birmingham Schools' Championships at Hadley Stadium. They all did very well but particular congratulations must go to Kate Moreton in 3C who won 1st place in the 100m and the Long Jump, even though she was competing against girls a year above her. We are still waiting to hear if any of our girls have been chosen to represent the district.

This month we are offering all girls the opportunity to see some Twenty20 cricket at Warwickshire County Cricket Club. The cricket club at school has already proved successful and this is a marvellous chance to see the game played by professionals.

A RIGHT ROYAL PRIZE

Girls in the 3rds, who attend the Junior Science Society in school, made up one of the judging panels for this year's Royal Society Junior Science book prize.

As part of an innovative judging process the winner will be selected entirely by young people from across the UK.

They read and reviewed the six shortlisted books and then, as a group, decided on marks for each book looking at the appearance of the book, how well it was written, how interesting they found the content and if they found the book appealing. The book they thought should win was 'It's Elementary! Putting the crackle into Chemistry' by Robert Winston, with the 'Big book of Science things to make and do' by Rebecca Gilpin being a close run second.

Comments about their selected book included "Chemistry made fun!" "A very useful, informative book" and "It was an interesting book that gets children inspired about science".

The winner of the Royal Society Junior Prize for Science Books will be announced on 16 June.

The group was supported by NESTA's Planet Science website and newsletter, which kindly provided all the books, which are now available in the school's library.