



March 2010

KEHS

KING EDWARD VI
HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

STARS IN ROME

Seven Girls (Sheila Long, Nicole Lewis-Fitch, Natalie Dobson, Danielle Sagar, Isabella Ravenhill, Amrit Braich and Meera Sodha) and three members of staff (Mrs A. Maloney, Mr M Gilbert and Dr Tedd) visited Rome to attend an astronomy workshop funded by the EEC under their Comenius scheme. Schools from six different countries (France, Romania, Greece, Italy, The Netherlands and the UK) are working together. In Rome, the girls stayed with Italian host families and they participated in activities presented by the partner schools. A range of scientific and cultural events were organised, including a pizza star party and a demonstration (with home-made placards) against the closing of an astronomical observatory. A brilliant time was had by all. The next workshop is in Oradea, Romania in May.



You Can Account On Us!



On the 23rd March 2010, two teams of Lower 6th Economics and Business students from KEHS went to the Birmingham Council House to participate in the Inter-School Business Game organised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. There were a total of 25 teams from many schools around the Midlands present, with around 150 students in total. Groups of 6 were given a case study where they had to act as accountants and come up with a solution to a problem – choosing the most suited franchise opportunity.

Each group had to present their work and ideas to a panel of judges and the other contestants with only 3 minutes to present. The competition was tough and culminated in one winner that has been chosen to go through to the finals in July. KEHS won top prize and will now attend the National Final at Aston Business School in July to represent the West Midlands. The winning team consisted of: Elise Hughes, Sabrina Kenth, Clare Rowland, Rhea Tewari, Faith Townsend and Amy Van Boolean. Well done to all involved.

Cheerio.....

This term we said goodbye to Katie Lyman and Rachel Glassman as they left to return to Vancouver. After a month staying with Emma Newman and Georgia Jones (U4A). The two Canadian exchange students finally perfected their English accents with Katie being heard to shout "Cheerio old chap!" as the car whisked her away. The exchange was a huge success - both girls had a great time and made some lasting friendships.



SPANISH DEPARTMENT consists of **Marcia Atkins (Department Head)** & **Laurence Birchall. Teaching Assistants: Pilar Bretos (Spain) & Caroline Nickson (Paraguay)**

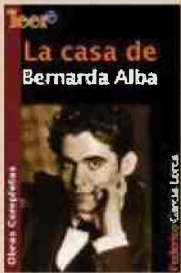
Spanish is currently offered as an option together with Italian in alternate years in the Lower 5th or Lower 6th. The GCSE course is completed in two years. All girls are entered for the Higher Tier of the AQA Examination. Many of them continue to AS and A2 level.

GCSE Course

This is an accelerated course covering a variety of topics aiming at developing communication strategies. All four skills (listening, reading, writing and speaking) are introduced from the start. Grammatical points are thoroughly covered and reinforced through homework. Spanish is used as much as possible both by staff and pupils. There is an emphasis on the cultural aspect of the language and raising awareness of its importance. Lessons are very dynamic, using a variety of teaching methods that suit the needs of the girls. We hope the girls are very successful in their exams and also enjoy the experience of learning the language.



A Level



We offer Spanish at AS and A2 level. In recent years the number of students taking Spanish has increased considerably. The course follows the AQA syllabus and covers topics that relate to the students' own interests. The teaching approach involves the development of their language skills to a higher level and by the end of the course they will be able to communicate fluently both verbally and in writing, develop their ideas, take the initiative and defend their points of view.

They will have a very good command of grammar and vocabulary. Through the study of literature the students are exposed to the work of well-known writers in Spain and Latin America.

At AS and A2 there is scope for independent learning and individual research in areas where the girls are keen to deepen their knowledge. The girls are encouraged to read widely.

Language Assistants

The girls have the opportunity to develop their speaking skills in small groups with the language assistant in their allocated Speaking lessons. They see the language assistant on a regular basis twice a week.

Spanish Sessions

One to one or small group sessions are offered on a regular basis for GCSE and A level girls. These include: grammar revision, translation exercises, listening practice, essay writing, conversation practice and Oxbridge preparation.

Success Rate

The Spanish Department has an excellent record of results in public examinations and many girls continue to study Spanish at university in combination with other subjects. This year four out of eleven girls are planning to do combined degrees involving Spanish.

Enrichment Activities in Spanish

- Cinema club
- Guest Speakers
- Theatre production
- Write to pen-pals in Huelva, Spain
- Visits from IES Fuente Juncal (Our partner school in Spain)
- Trip to Spain
- Spanish Conference
- Spanish Embassy competition
- Spanish Tapas
- Salsa and Flamenco workshops
- Reading programme
- Subscribe to Spanish Magazine
- Research aspects of Spanish society
- European Day of Languages



HOLA Y BUENA LECTURA

News



Autum Term

Modern Foreign Language Summer School

This project is part of the Building Bridges Partnership between our school, Arthur Terry School and Great Barr School.

Over three days students from the three schools in the partnership were invited to attend a Modern Foreign language workshop. The Spanish workshop was aimed at students participating in the Honduras trip. There was really positive feedback from the students. They liked the fact they were able to learn the basics for their trip and felt they got to know their fellow students from the other schools even better.

L6th Tapas Outing

Every year we offer the students who are starting the Spanish GCSE course an outing to the Ikon Gallery for a tapas tasting session. This always proves to be a very successful and enjoyable experience for all the girls.

Links with Primary Schools

A group of enthusiastic A level and GCSE girls organised and delivered a Spanish workshop to Year 3 children at a local primary school on Friday 16 October.

This workshop had the aim of enabling the girls to practise their Spanish while 'passing on' the knowledge that they have gained to a wider community. They worked with children from Clifton Junior School in Balsall Heath. The activities included teaching basic vocabulary, games and Spanish music.

Spring Term

"Ruta Quetzal" – Spanish Embassy

We were delighted that Antonia Wood was selected by the Spanish Embassy to take part in "Ruta Quetzal" 2010.

Ruta Quetzal is a competition organised by the Spanish Embassy in London and sponsored by BBVA Bank whereby 30 students doing Spanish in the UK take part in a series of activities at the Instituto Cervantes in London. The winner of the competition will join other winners from Europe and around the world and they will spend 6 weeks travelling and studying in Spain and Mexico.



Phillip Allan Conference

Our GCSE group attended the Spanish Conference "España en Vivo" on Friday 5th February 2010. This prestigious conference organised by Phillip Allan Updates aims to revise some of the themes of the GCSE exam. The day is led by native speakers and largely conducted in Spanish with contents relevant to the exam and using an interactive approach involving students in the day's activities.



Film Society

Hannah Morton from the A level group is the leader of this group, which attempts to promote the viewing and discussion of well known Spanish films. The two films shown during this academic year have been "Laberinto del Fauno" y "Belle Epoque".

Looking Ahead

Guest speaker from Birmingham University
Spanish students visiting in the summer term
Summer Course at KEHS

¡ Felices Pascuas !



PE News

Despite the weather trying its hardest to sabotage our hockey and netball fixtures, we have managed to play plenty of matches in both sports this term.

In January, our under 16 and under 18 Netball teams spent a very cold but enjoyable day playing in the West Midlands Regional round of the National Schools' Tournament at Manor Sports College in Wednesbury. Although neither team qualified to play in the National finals, they should both be congratulated on their achievement in reaching this stage and also on some excellent play. Our under 13 netball team were rewarded for playing 2 hours of netball on another bitterly cold Saturday morning by winning the Birmingham Schools' Friendly Tournament earlier this month. Well done to all of the squad.

In the county hockey tournaments this term, the under 12 team finished 2nd, narrowly losing on a "golden goal" in the final and the under 13's were joint winners. The under 14's won their tournament and reached the regional finals. Well done to all players!

Our under 13 swimmers recently competed in the West Midlands round of the International Swimming Relays competition at Bromsgrove School. They swam very well and were very pleased with their fourth place in both the medley and freestyle events. Congratulations to all of the team. The Life Saving Club entered 2 teams in the Junior Splash competition on March 6th. They competed very well finishing first and second!! The school life-saving club continues to thrive. Zoe Newman, Kate Morgan, Charlotte Mullner and Jessica Delaney-Hall have gained their Lifesaving 1 award and Katie Bowler and Jessica Dale have achieved their bronze medallion award. Well done to all of these girls!

The gymnasts took part in a "tumbling" competition at Stoke on Trent in February and are due to compete in the Birmingham Schools' competition at the end of March.

On Sunday March 7th, 13 girls successfully completed the theory section of their beginners' netball umpiring award. They are training hard on their practical section of the award. They now realise that umpiring isn't quite as easy as it looks!!

151 girls took part in "Greetings and Goodbyes" – this year's dance production. We are now beginning to think about next year. If anyone has any ideas for next year's theme, please write it on a piece of paper and put it on Mrs. Smith's shelf. The 2011 theme will be announced at the Summer Open Day.

This year the department had a sports celebration assembly on Monday 29th March to recognise achievement and participation throughout the year so far.

We look forward to the athletics, rounders and tennis season. Swimming, gymnastics, volleyball and fencing all continue as normal.

We All Moved Together

The PE department aided by over 200 keen pupils and staff did their bit for Sports Relief last week. Great fun was had by all, as 1 mile was completed in a great variety of unusual means. Almost £400 was raised. Thank you to everyone involved.



To Donate or Not to Donate

As a 'living donor' Justine Graham gave her view of kidney donation. After 10 years on dialysis her father became ill and Justine decided to donate a kidney to him. It took nine months of counselling but after a three hour operation that went without a hitch they are both now well and living life to the full. Although being a live donor is not for everyone, the girls were very inquisitive and asked lots of questions. Hopefully they are now thinking about signing up on the donation register. <http://www.organdonation.nhs.uk>