

KING EDWARD VI HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

# HighProfile

Spring/Summer 2008



## The Bard on the Boards

KEHS perform an updated version of a classic on p4

**In this issue** Focus on Mr. Cooper • Charity Week • Languages • Music & Drama Performances • Politics • Creative Writing • and more •

# Women in Leadership

By Sarah Lam and Shauna Crombie

Politics is a field that has traditionally been dominated by men, but we have been watching Hillary Clinton's campaign for the presidency with great interest.

She has staged an impressive campaign and achieved a great rapport with the American public with her policies of job creation and expansion of children's healthcare despite the stiff opposition from Barack Obama. If she wins the current American electoral race for president she will become the first ever female



president of the United States. This would have been almost unthinkable over twenty years ago. Her ambition is achievable. The tables may indeed be turning - females are breaking out of their oppressive 'devoted housewife' roles into bigger, better and more authoritative positions.

This has revived the ever popular debate - 'Which sex is stronger?'

Margaret Thatcher was our first female prime minister. She was educated at Somerville College, Oxford, where she gained a degree in Chemistry. Her defiant opposition of the Soviet Union gained her the nickname of the 'Iron Lady', due to her tough talking rhetoric.

Thatcher was the leader of the Conservative Party from 1975 to 1990 and came to power in 1979. Her mandate was to reverse the UK's decline and to reduce the role of the state in the economy. She was one of the few Conservatives to vote on Abse's Bill to decriminalise male homosexuality and to legalise abortion, and has thus gained a reputation for being a strong willed, successful female politician.

Women are making huge progress in a variety of fields, not exclusively politics. Women are reaching higher positions than ever before, for example budding businesswomen have shattered the stereotypical hierarchical system where men have previously held the supreme position of CEO. London, the financial capital of the world, is the home of many young

"Which sex is stronger?"

astute businesswomen – not long ago, there would have been a significantly larger number of men than women, but now the roles have evened out. Within our school, pupils are encouraged to take part in the Young Enterprise Scheme, which allows students to

run their own companies. Of course our own Miss Evans is an inspiration to us all in terms of leadership.



Anita Roddick

Leading businesswomen of recent times have been Deborah Meaden, from BBC2's investment programme *Dragons' Den*. She launched her own glass and ceramics company straight out of business college, but has since enjoyed many successful businesses in the leisure and retail sector. Anita Roddick founded the Body Shop in 1976 and was a huge campaigner for environmental and social issues. The editor-in-chief of *American Vogue*, Anna Wintour, revived the stagnant publication due to consistent hard work and dedication.

We are fortunate in our school to be offered an environment in which our personal ambitions are wholly encouraged. We are given opportunities, support and guidance and in the current situation anything is possible for a KEHS student.

## DEBATING SOCIETY (For all you budding politicians)

Debating society is a joint sixth form club with KES. Each week, two people from each school volunteer to form either mixed or single sex teams, taking up the roles as proposition and opposition for the debate. Each person makes a speech, supporting the side for which they are debating, with the debate open to the floor afterwards. Before the floor decide the winning team, which is judged on how well they have argued their case, each side makes one last summary speech to clinch the final vote.

Long preparation debates are where the speakers know of the motion several days beforehand, which gives them time to research topical information if needed. Short preparation debates are where the speakers find out which

side they're on and the motion of the debate itself twenty minutes before the debate starts.

Debating is great for those who are outspoken and opinionated as well as for those who prefer to remain reserved in their opinions and act as listeners instead. It gives an opportunity for you to share your views and consider those of others, allowing practice of oratory and analysis skills, both of which are invaluable.

Past motions have included:

'This house would give torture warrants to terrorist suspects'

'This house believes that heterosexuals make better parents'

'This house would close down Oxbridge'.

These debates have created many funny, enjoyable and heated discussions. Here are some quotes of why people come to debating society:

...it increases understanding of controversial issues...'

'...I like listening to the interesting discussions...'

'...I enjoy voicing my opinions...'

So if you're in the sixth form and enjoy having some fun, then come and join us in the lecture theatre, 1.00pm every Thursday!

By *Rainbow Crawford*

# Enrichment at **KEHS**

by Helen Rankin

**This term I have been researching and writing an article for the Journal of Classical teaching. The article explores the benefits of enrichment activities and, in particular, how at KEHS the Classics Department offers so many opportunities for pupils to learn beyond the curriculum.**

Learning Latin in its own right is an excellent intellectual challenge and is academically rigorous. Students have the chance to improve their linguistic acumen and learn about cultural and historical topics which have shaped the modern world. We take the L4th, U4th and L5th on day trips each year, to St. Albans, Bath and Cirencester. Students have the opportunity on these days to explore the excellent Roman sites and museums and begin to think about Classics in a more creative way. In recent years we have also taken trips to the Bay of Naples, and in December, the U6th went to

Rome. The sixth form visit the British Museum in London each year and parties of sixth formers and staff regularly go to see Classical plays. This year we have also heard expert outside speakers deliver lectures on coinage in the ancient world and women in Homer this. There are lots of opportunities for students to start their own Classical projects, we have a number of sixth form students writing research papers in preparation for the AQA Bacc and some of the lower fifth are hoping to start teaching Latin in a local primary school.



# ROMEO & JULIET

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

## THE REVIEW

'Never was there a tale of such woe, than that of fair Juliet and her Romeo.'

This year's highly anticipated senior production was Shakespeare's most famous love story - Romeo and Juliet. Excitement was stirred within both schools after the dramatic trailer was shown to give us a taste of what was to come, courtesy of Elliander Pictures.

The play had a modern twist to it, thanks to the creative mind of Miss Proops. Instead of Verona, the tale of the star crossed lovers shifted to 80's London – the Capulets were a motley crew of skinheads whereas the Montagues were the New Romantics. This change in the script enabled a daring adaptation to be born... including a particularly memorable locker room scene!

Romeo and Juliet has been re-created many a time, but the KES/KEHS production proved that a vast budget is not needed in order to produce a fantastically successful show. The scene was set with the stunning backdrop of the Capulet household, ably designed by the KES/KEHS stage crew, and with a deafening gunshot in the opening scene, the play was soon underway.

The leading lady was played by Beth Heaven who captivated the audience with her portrayal of the innocent teen. Her performance was neither overdramatic nor overbearing, and despite the scene in which she visibly broke down after finding out about Romeo's exile, she still managed to convey the emotions her character was expressing in a truly professional manner.

James Taft played the role of Romeo, and provided us with an engaging performance of the love struck teen. Both characters had a convincing connection, and managed to strike up an emotional bond between not only themselves, but also with the audience. The audience lived and died along with the pair - as the characters were in the midst of the heart wrenching death scene, there was not a dry eye in the house.

The Capulets were the threatening crew of thugs, with Alannah Foster as the fun loving Lady Capulet, Simon Worthington as Lord Capulet and Olly Mitchell as Tybalt. Alannah Foster was the embarrassing mother of Juliet, who entranced the audience with her spark and glamour... along with that particular dance scene with the Nurse, who was played by Sarah Garrington. She also provided us with an equally entertaining performance with her larger than life persona. Simon Worthington was the over protective father (I'm sure many of us can relate to that!) whilst Olly Mitchell was the roguish Prince of Cats.

The Montagues were instead portrayed as the cosmetic wearing, androgynous clothes loving gang of New Romantics. The elegant Lady Montague was played by Elly Porter, whose

husband was the uptight, narrow minded Tom Elliot. Lauren Bostock took on the challenging role of Benvolio in the female form, and her benevolent, peace loving character really shone through.

The Prince was played by James Eyre who stormed the stage with his commanding presence in settling the feud that had ravaged the city. The insecure joker Mercutio, the Prince's kinsman, was played by Tim Kiely, who gave an unforgettable picture of Romeo's best friend. The placid Paris was played by Christopher Bland, whose undying love for Juliet was eventually his downfall. Friar Laurence was played by Luke Murphy, who gave the audience a truly humorous interpretation of his character.

The exceptional performances from the whole cast truly lit up the stage. However, this would not have been possible without the hard work of the company, which was composed of many eager seniors from both schools. Their ongoing dedication and commitment made the production a complete triumph, and with the sensational scenery provided by the stage crew, the audience were given a visible treat. This all could not have been achieved however, without the experienced guidance of Miss Proops, who gave everyone a production to remember.

*By Georgia Dickinson, Sarah Lam & Simran Virdee*





Ever wanted to know what it's like to be the lead

Dear Diary,

I auditioned for the senior play, 'Romeo and Juliet', at school today. I was SO nervous! Miss Proops said we'll hear more later on in the week..fingers crossed!!

Dear Diary,

I was practising dance at lunch today in the hall when Elly ran in saying "You've got a call back for Juliet!". It's next Tuesday after school but one dilemma... dance auditions are next Tuesday after school too!!

Dear Diary,

Miss Proops and the new assistant director Mr Bartlett let me audition at lunchtime today instead of after school...phew! We had to do the balcony scene as the call-back piece. Everyone was really good and I heard that everyone after school did really well too, rumour now has it there might be a second call back for Romeo and Juliet later this week..

Dear Diary,

Have been checking the drama notice board since Tuesday. I was walking past today at break when I noticed the full company list but looking down it I couldn't find my name at all..Miss Proops did say everyone who had a call back would definitely get some part in the play didn't she?!...

Then, at the very bottom of the list:

Romeo- James Taft,  
Juliet...BETH HEAVEN!!!

I actually can't believe it and haven't stopped shaking with excitement all day :-)

And with James too, we're really good friends, what are the chances? I just can't put into words how surprised and happy I am!

Dear Diary,

I heard at lunch that Miss Proops wants the Capulet gang, including me, to shave their heads...

Dear Diary,

We've been rehearsing 3 times a week for about a term now; today's the first Monday of the Christmas holidays and I was in school all day rehearsing... SO many lines...help!

Dear Diary,

Bright and early start today in the Jewellery Quarter to film the trailer for the play. After Miss Proops had mustered everyone up a costume we started filming in the freeeezing cold!! Next we went to a deserted car park which was covered in graffiti to film some fighting and got caught up in a heavy hailstorm haha. Shivering and a little bit wet we finally finished for the



ng lady? Beth gives us a sneaky look at her diary!

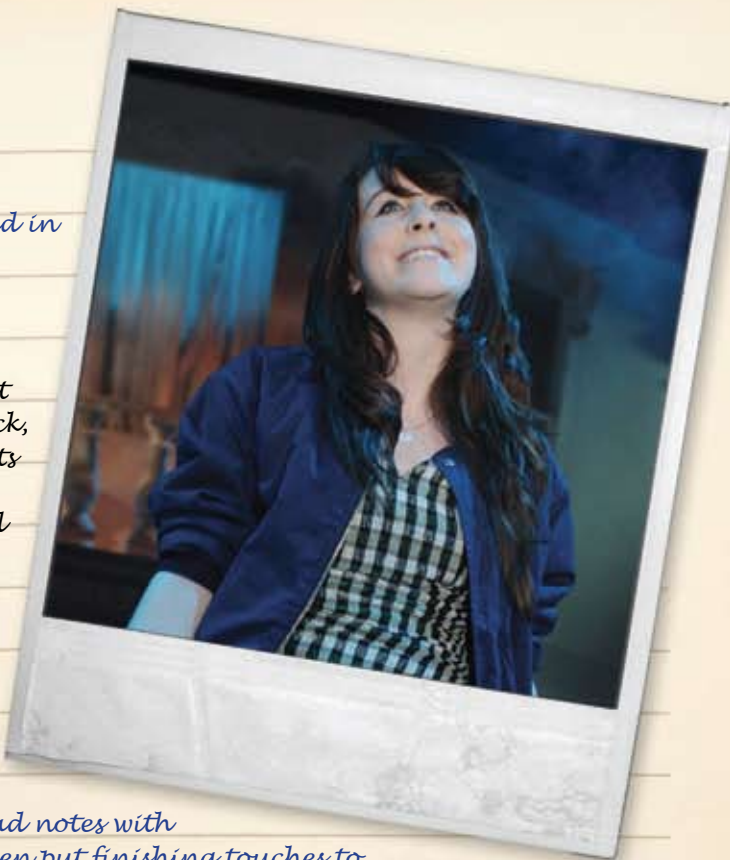
*day. Hopefully it'll be played in assembly next week.*

*Dear Diary,  
The trailer was played in assembly on Monday and it had really positive feedback, Friday and Saturday tickets are already sold out but apparently Wednesday and Thursday tickets are now going fast. ONE WEEK TO GO!!*

*Dear Diary,  
I was right I couldn't concentrate at all today I kept running through all my lines in my head. We had notes with the teachers after school then put finishing touches to hair and makeup before houselights down at 7.30. Feeling completely sick with nerves the adrenaline was rushing and the first night seemed to run relatively smoothly with only a few minor slip-ups and not one person forgot their lines which is such an achievement! It's really sad that the first night's over and there's only three more to go now. I'm just enjoying every second of it while it lasts!!*

*Dear Diary,  
Yesterday was the final night of Romeo and Juliet. It was a really busy day getting presents and flowers to say thank you to everyone involved and everyone in the cast was given a copy of the soundtrack as a present. From houselights down right to the death scene, everything went far too quickly and it felt like we were taking our final bows before we had even had the chance to begin. The whole experience has been a truly incredible one I know I'll never ever forget, everyone involved deserves a huge thank you, all the cast and crew and every single teacher who helped out backstage; none of this could have been possible without all of you, and especially thank you to Miss Proops and Mr Bartlett who have worked so unbelievably hard.*

*Now, onto next years play...*



Erin Woollaston tries her hand at journalism to publicise

# ROMEO & JULIET

When Miss Proops mentioned before half-term that she would like as much publicity as possible for this year's spectacular Senior Production 'Romeo & Juliet,' I jumped at the chance to coordinate some newspaper articles in my local area of Solihull.

Why would I want to do that? you may ask. Well, I have always enjoyed writing, and for quite some time I have been thinking of working in journalism or the media - it only seems natural that I hope to work in a career where I can write all day! It's a very competitive atmosphere to get a foothold in, and you have to promote yourself as having a real interest in writing.

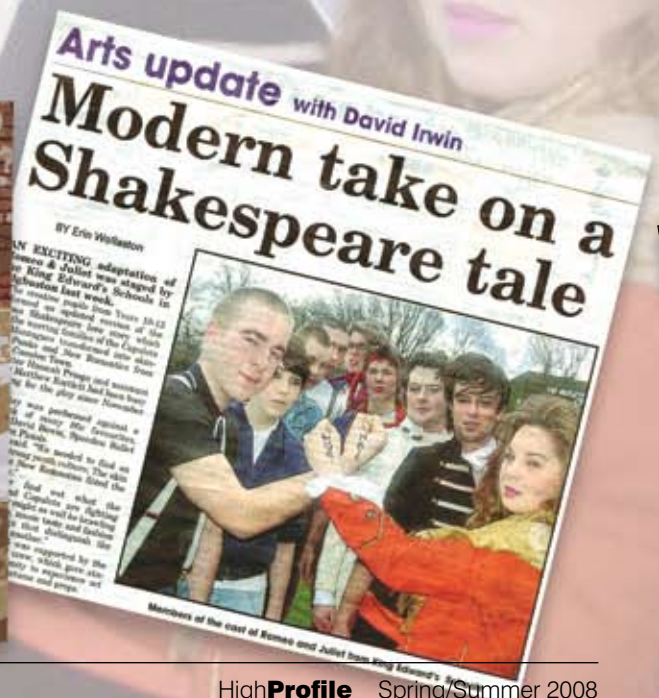
To get myself some valuable work experience that doesn't involve having to give up a week of my holidays (!), I have been writing for local papers for quite some time. It started off with my piano teacher's choir, which was recruiting young singers to apply for its Scholarship Scheme, and from then onwards I have managed to publicise many more local events, with varying degrees of success!

In addition, I have a huge interest in drama and the Arts; I was in the cast of 'Romeo & Juliet' this year and I was also in another King Edward's Shakespeare play, 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' in 2005. I would absolutely love to combine my interest in journalism with my interest in the Arts, so I particularly enjoy writing articles about local Arts events, and I approached the Arts correspondent of my local paper who has now printed several articles for me based around theatre and music events in Solihull, including one about 'Romeo & Juliet.'

Last summer holiday, I completed a week's work experience at the Bromsgrove Standard newspaper and I really enjoyed the experience. I was keen to find a way of publicising 'Romeo & Juliet' from a Bromsgrove point of view, so I focused on Bromsgrove residents Elliot and Zander Weaver from the boy's school, who skilfully produced and directed the innovative film trailer that had the KEHS hall bubbling with anticipation for the opening night of the play. Having been on work experience at the Standard, the editor was very willing to print this article for me and the Weavers certainly deserved the publicity for their outstanding efforts.

My experience as part of the cast of 'Romeo & Juliet' was truly memorable and an exciting few months, and being able to publicise the event was even more exciting for me. Experience is the key to success in journalism, and over the past year I have gained many valuable skills in the journalistic style of writing, as well as getting a strange buzz from seeing my own work in print!

*By Erin Woollaston*



# Dance Production

## 2008

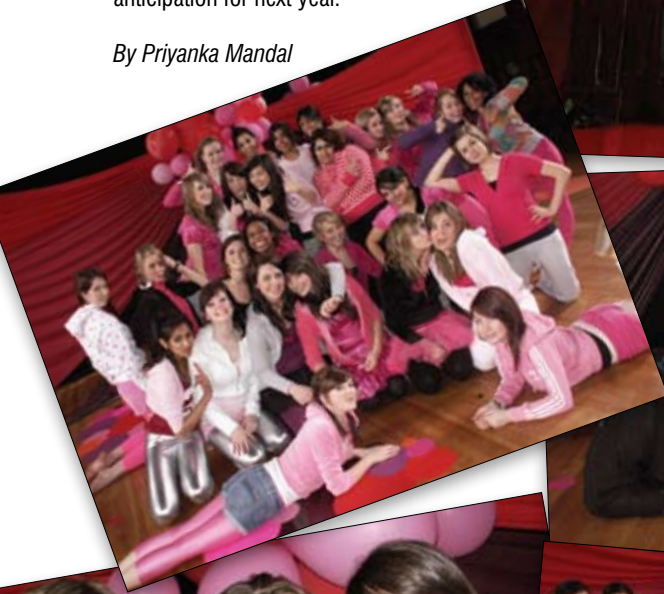
This year's dance production was a huge success. After last year's theme of "Science and Technology", this year the concept was "The Human Body."

The production ran from Tuesday 11th March for three evenings. The production was buzzing with a wide variety of dance styles, from Jasmine Gardosi's karate-inspired dance to the relaxing moves of Katie Smith's solo.

On Thursday 13th March on the final night, all the backstage dancers were excited and energy abounded in the school hall. The audience erupted into loud applause after the finale of "Brown Eyed Girl". Dance Workshop President Katie Smith gave a thoughtful speech, supported by the workshops two vice presidents Alannah Foster and Helen Watkinson.

The splendour of the costumes, the interesting backdrop and the inventive lighting plans all helped to create a spectacular production. Congratulations to everyone involved in this marvellous show, the hard work obviously paid off. We wait in anticipation for next year.

*By Priyanka Mandal*



# The National Youth Orchestra

Through the eyes of Suzy Quirke

When I arrived at my first course with NYO, I was terrified for three main reasons. The first was that I would be kicked out and sent home on the first day on account of the blue nail varnish I had forgotten to remove after Christmas. The second was that I would arrive only to find that, despite all its fame and glory, the orchestra didn't really live up to the hype. The third was that the terror was going to get a whole lot worse.

The time came. I walked into my first sectional to find twenty violinists all sitting quietly at their stands, waiting for our Professor to arrive. I got my violin out and quickly took my place. The Professor arrived; we rose in greeting, sat back down and played. The piece was the opening number of Prokofiev's immortal ballet, *Romeo and Juliet* – you might know it better as that music that plays at the start of 'The Apprentice' every week. It's pure war music, depicting the fiery conflict that rages between the two rival families as they engage in yet another street brawl. It only took a few bars of playing for me to realise that I had never played in a section anywhere near this standard before, and my first two fears were quickly dispelled (nobody even noticed the nail varnish). I remember my astonishment at the complete confidence of the players around me,

the equally complete absence of wrong notes, and the one thought that was circling round my head for the next hour and a half. "Oh good."

This was pretty much how the course continued for me. There were seventy newbies this year and I, along with Sarah Watts-Tibbats, had a lot to learn in a very short space of time. The NYO does not operate like a normal orchestra. To begin with, I soon discovered that it was necessary to be fifteen minutes early to every rehearsal. If you arrived only twelve minutes beforehand, you were considered late; bearing in mind that most of our breaks were only thirty minutes long anyway, this amounted to about ten minutes rest for every two hours' rehearsal.

The most noticeably different thing about the NYO is its sheer size. The orchestra is absolutely massive, the main ensemble comprising of over 150 instrumentalists – that's about twice the size of the school Symphony Orchestra. Where the other youth orchestras I play in might go for two or three double bass players, the NYO had itself a section of twelve. This wasn't the only example, either; oversized sections of five harps, eight oboes (the same going for

bassoons, trumpets, trombones, clarinets and flutes) and three tubas all contributed towards what I can only describe as the hugest sound I have ever been part of. The individual standard of playing was a shock as well; while some people warm up with scales, I caught a dieconcerting number of my section limbering up with the last movement of the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto. It didn't matter if you sat at the back of second violins or on the front desk of firsts, as not a single member of the orchestra was content with just pulling his or her own weight. The enthusiasm in-rehearsal was overwhelming when compared to what I've experienced before.

Another thing to get used to was the orchestra's love of custom. Despite having modernised itself for its 60th anniversary, the NYO is an old establishment and maintains several core traditions. These little oddities may simply comprise of standing up whenever a Professor enters the room, or maintaining perfect 'concert position' when in performance and not playing (bows down across legs, violins on left knee, straight backs). The most important of these traditions is fairly notorious within the British musical world; the two-minute silence. Prior to each full rehearsal, following tuning, there is – quite



# chestra of Great Britain

simply - complete silence for two minutes among the 160 members of the orchestra. If you drop your stand's pencil during this sacred period of hush, you earn yourself a glare from your section principal. If you did the unthinkable, and whispered something to your neighbour... Who knows what would happen? I've never quite dared try it, and that's probably just as well.

You rehearse together for two weeks, having been sent the music a month beforehand to learn. At some point, the concert conductor turns up; in past years the NYO has enjoyed such famous names as Sir Colin Davis, Sir Mark Elder, Tadaaki Otaka, Mstislav Rostropovich and Sir Simon Rattle. This Easter holiday, we performed with the exuberant young Russian, Vasily Petrenko. In the summer will come Antonio Pappano, of the Royal Opera House, who will conduct us through the NYO's annual appearance at the BBC Proms. Which, naturally, is always televised.

At the end of every course, the orchestra performs in multiple concerts at various venues throughout Great Britain. On the Easter course, we took Stravinsky's Rite of Spring to Newcastle, London and, of course, good old Birmingham. Concert discipline is of utmost

consequence; uniform is all black, the stage must be mounted in complete silence (try that with 160 excited school students) and, most of all, you must not smile or wave to anybody in the audience. Your performances are reviewed by actual critics in actual newspapers. Our entire April concert at the Barbican was broadcast three days later on national radio. It takes a bit of getting used to when you open the paper in the morning, only to find yourself reading about the concert you played just a couple of nights before.

I know - it all sounds fairly terrifying. Like an army-strict, Stravinsky-obsessive, less-than-friendly version of your average band camp. And yet, despite all its posturing, the NYO is actually one of the friendliest, most productive environments I have ever been happy to work in. You find yourself making friends for life, although, admittedly, being stuck with the same people for two solid weeks is bound to do that to you. By the end of the course, despite all this work, you're having such a good time that you wish home didn't exist - and this is where I made the strangest discovery of all.

For, in the end, the National Youth Orchestra is just that - a bunch of teenagers doing what

they love. Off-stage, they're all just normal adolescents, who spend their break-times slouched in front of rubbish daytime TV and/or fighting their way to the front of the biscuit queue. It just so happens that, given an instrument and put on a stage, they become one of the finest youth orchestras in the world. All in all, I can probably now come to a conclusion as to my third and final fear. Yes, the NYO is a terrifying experience. You can't mount a stage with 150 other people and not feel the dread of playing a wrong note or rhythm, of letting down your section, with whom you have worked so hard these past two weeks. So yes, it's frightening - but there are other feelings mixed in there too, of exhilaration and concentration and pride that you're there, contributing to that sound along with all the rest. Thanks to that, the result is simple. You buck up your chin and get on with it, no matter how scared you are - because in the end you're playing with National Youth Orchestra, and it's absolutely fantastic.

Terrifying, yes. But fantastic.



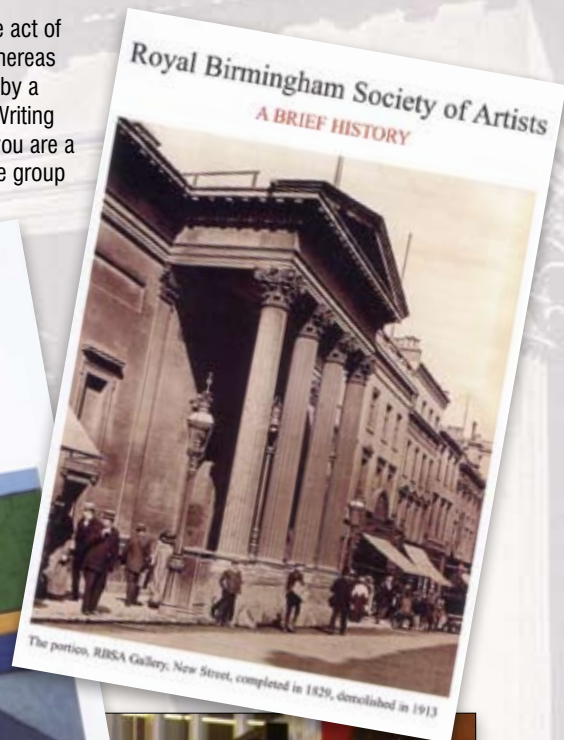
# Poetry Reading and Creative

On a cold evening in March the Senior Creative Writing Society delivered a selection of poetry and prose to an audience of family, friends and staff. The venue was the RBSA gallery in the heart of Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter; a perfect back drop to showcase the talent of KEHS's creative writing students. The audience were given the opportunity to question the girls about the inspiration for their writing and the techniques and approaches which they had used to construct some of their work. The girls and staff who participated in this excellent evening of culture and creativity were:

Tara Parashar	Sondos Ibrahim,
Jamie Baxter	Christopher Hope
Jasmine Gardosi	Tina Arora
Natalie White	Upasana Bhaumik
Chrystal Ding	Ayesha Adeyemo

In this edition of High Profile we have included a short story by Tina Arora entitled Polystyrene Cup.

The inspiration for this was quite simply the act of drinking cold coffee in a Starbucks café, whereas the poem written by Mr Hope was inspired by a chair in a hotel room! The Senior Creative Writing group meets every Friday lunch time so if you are a budding poet or author do go along, join the group and let your imagination run wild.



# Writing at the RBSA Gallery

## POLYSTYRENE CUP

The sky was an empty grey. The bridge was nearly deserted. She smiled, walking along the pavement until she stood halfway between the two banks of the river. Then she stopped.

Everyday he watched her. It would be the exact same routine - she would be dressed in the same neat black skirt suit, regardless of whether it was summer or winter. And she always had what appeared to be in the same cup clutched between her hands.

She never really noticed him. His presence was a shimmer of a heat haze on the border of her consciousness. But he was aware of her every movement. The way she crossed her ankles, right behind left. How her hair would fall into her face as she leaned against the wall, until she pushed it back, tangling it with her fingers. Her handbag would fall into the crook of her elbow and there it would rest until she left.

The steamy whisps that escaped from the disposable cup would gradually disappear. When they did, she pulled off the plastic lid,

poured the undrunk, now cold liquid into the river below and replaced the cover. He always wondered why she did so, what thoughts distracted her so much from whatever was in that cup. He wondered why she always came to this particular bridge, what drove her there to begin with.

She left the cup on the wall. Straightening, she walked away, back to wherever it was she had come from. At first he had been intrigued - she never seemed able to cross the bridge. But now it had become routine, as identical to every other day as the polystyrene cup.

As he always did, he picked up the emptied cup. He liked to consider himself to be less predictable than her, but every day he was still there, silent and inconspicuous, ready to erase the solitary sign of her presence. After he had done this self delegated task, he too left, going in the opposite direction to her. The only evidence that anyone had ever been there an emptied polystyrene cup, concealed in the bin.

*By Tina Arora*



*Tina Arora*

## To The Seat in Room Four, The George Inn, St. Briavels

**By Christopher Hope**

How many times have you actually been Sat in? You look lost by that cold, flowered Window, but sadly inviting. How would You write about life: awkward couples seen

In their underwear; folded pyjamas  
On bold pillows: reflections of your lines;  
That wall lamp with pretend dripping wax; pine  
Furniture; air? Details used to calm us.

Or would you tell of the fifties; smokers  
In wide-hemmed suits; new carpets; jazz; baths; sun;  
Sepia salesman in solid cars; one  
Great May week - moving day - when they spoke, fussed

And considered your colour? Now - forgotten -  
What's left? Hours.

Hours.

Maybe one last bottom



## An Interview with

# Mr Cooper

On a dark and stormy night Mr Cooper was led into the KEHS meeting room where we discovered some of his deepest secrets...

### Which living person do you most admire, and why?

Gordon Brown, because he is the leader of the Labour party.

### What was your most embarrassing moment?

My most embarrassing moment was when I thrust my hand through a roll of sellotape and couldn't get it off, so then Matron had to cut it off with some very powerful scissors. Oh or when the zip in my trousers burst in a lesson and no one said anything until the end.

### Would you rather be clever and ugly, or thick and attractive?

I would rather be clever and ugly, yes definitely

### Or clever and attractive?

Well wouldn't everyone!

### What is your most treasured possession?

Hmmm my Roman coins.



### Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

(after a long thought) 'not withstanding'.

### We've never heard you say that...

Hmm well what would you say it is then?

### You say 'oh dear' a lot

Oh yes I do!

### When was the last time you cried and why?

Ohhh dear, ohhh dear I can't remember...oh yes when Mr Hopkinson left.

Awh

### What do you consider your greatest achievement?

Going to Bath 32 times.

### What keeps you awake at night?

Worrying about being awake at night  
Have you never had that?! When you're lying there and you're thinking oh dear oh dear I must get to sleep.

### Tell us about your first love?

Well...it comes in pints.

### Would you describe yourself as a romantic?

Oh absolutely, oh dear yes.

### What's the biggest lie you've told?

I told Mr Barratt that he was handsome.

### What is the saddest movie you have ever seen?

The 300 Spartans.

### Draw yourself.

### What's the first thing that comes to mind when you hear...

<b>Pillow</b>	sleep
<b>Apple</b>	batter
<b>Home</b>	stay
<b>Guilt</b>	trip
<b>Ring</b>	finger
<b>Lips</b>	kiss
<b>Month</b>	January
<b>Light</b>	dark
<b>Locks</b>	water (on a canal)

### Favourite meal?

Halibut.

### If you could be famous, what would you want to be famous for?

Having written an epic poem.

### Called?

It would be called 'The Aeniad - The Beginning'.

### What's the best piece of advice you could give to someone..

Stay relaxed.

### Which character from "Friends" do you most identify with?

Oh dear, I've never seen it, I'm sorry (!?)

### What is your favourite TV show?

I like costume dramas and adaptations.

### Most naughty thing you did as a child?

I wasn't particularly naughty, I hit my brother over the head with an axe... not on purpose though.

### What is your favourite book?

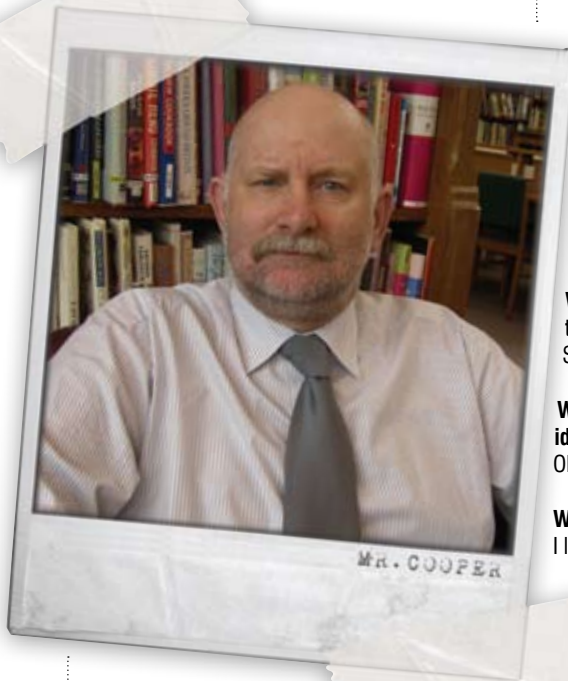
'On The Beach' by Neville Shute.

### What are your other interests apart from imperial Rome?

I'm interested in sport, travel, English literature, gardening – growing veg.

### What's your favourite sport?

I don't play any anymore, I'm too old. I used to play rugby, football and cricket but I'm past that now, far too decrepit, I'm for the scrap heap now, like a tired old horse.



### Which Roman emperor do you think you resemble most?

Vespasian I think.

### Looks wise or...?

That's what I've been told.

### One wish?

A nationalised railway system with cheap fares and huge investment.

# NewsRoundup

## Adieu Monsieur le Professeur

By Laura Ralph



I was involved in a French poetry competition at the University of Birmingham two years ago, so when the opportunity arose to take part again in the sixth form, I thought that it would be enjoyable to enter the competition at this more advanced level. The poem selected for my age group in the competition was obligatory, but this was not a problem as I felt that the poem had a lot of variety, so it could potentially be performed very expressively. Following plenty of preparation and tips from Madame Laurent, the day of the competition arrived and I felt at ease.

The competition itself involved two rounds for each age group. The first part allowed the candidates to recite their poems in relative privacy, and a panel of judges whittled down the number of entrants. However the second round, which took place in the presence of all other competitors and their attendees in a more public room, put the contenders on show to a far greater extent, especially as they would be up against the pick of the bunch.

Although the ambience was often tense, I found the experience fun, as I enjoy performing and do not tend to get very nervous (at least, not until the very last moment!). I was even competing alongside some friends, which helped me to relax, although it was bizarre that they were my "rivals". I was pleased to get into the second round, but was dubious as to whether I could surpass that. However, I was pleasantly surprised when I was announced as the winner. It was an excellent experience which really encouraged me to pursue my Modern Language studies with vigour.

*"Les enfants font une farandole  
Et le vieux maître est tout ému  
Demain il va quitter sa chère école  
Sur cette estrade il ne montera plus".*

*"Une larme est tombée sur sa main  
Seul dans la classe il s'est assis  
Il en a vu défiler des gamins  
Qu'il a aimés tout au long de sa vie".*

*"De beaux prix sont remis aux élèves  
Tous les discours sont terminés  
Sous le préau l'assistance se lève  
Une dernière fois les enfants vont chanter:*

*"Adieu monsieur le professeur  
On ne vous oubliera jamais  
Et tout au fond de notre coeur  
Ces mots sont écrits à la craie  
Nous vous offrons ces quelques fleurs  
Pour dire combien on vous aimait  
On ne vous oubliera jamais  
Adieu monsieur le professeur".*

## AS French Topic Day

On Monday 3rd March L6th French students had the opportunity to attend the annual French Topic Day, held in the Great Hall, at the University of Birmingham. The linguists congregated in the school entrance hall to be "shepherded" to the university in the company of Madame Birchall and Madame Marquette. A-level students from all over the Midlands attended the course. The day consisted of a series of topics related to our AS French course, such as immigration in France and the French media. In relation to the media we were shown French video advertisements,



Georgia and Priyanka who both took part in the French and German Topic days

whilst completing various comprehensions and grammar exercises at the same time. The entertaining sketches greatly improved our ability to understand quick paced French, and added variety to the day.

## German Topic Day

Three days after the French day, three girls and one lucky boy studying A level German made their way across to Birmingham University accompanied by Miss Krutin and the language assistant Johanna. Thomas and Bettina, the two eccentric Germans leading the course kept us hooked with their funny stories and interesting topic choices, which included subjects such as the smoking laws in Germany. We were also given useful exam tips, which we shall be sure to keep in mind come the summer!

## KERB SCHOOL RADIO

The newest edition to the KEHS community is the formation of a podcast radio station called KERB.

KERB, King Edward's Radio Broadcast, was the idea of Miss Evans and Mr Hope, who decided it would make an innovative option for the Friday afternoon general studies block. So after a year of buying and setting up the equipment, the first ever podcast, which is

currently on the school website, was recorded by Celia Butler and Sophie Routledge.

The plans for the future involve setting up little receivers around school and to get more people involved to chat, debate and write radio plays.

The podcasts include music, current affairs and general entertainment, but the involvement of the school is essential to its success, so be sure to listen to the podcasts on the website and if you have any ideas to contribute,

please leave them on Mr Hope's shelf.



Celia Butler and Sophie Routledge

# News Roundup

## LIFE GUARDING

KEHS has taken the plunge into life guarding with coach Rose Link, who runs sessions both in the pool and on dry land. The skills gained have benefited the girls enormously. Everyone has found the course highly enjoyable and rewarding.

### Top 5 Survival Tips

1. Listen to the lifeguards - they know best!
2. Stay calm under all conditions, and make sure you call for support when in trouble.
3. Know your ability - do not put yourself in danger!
4. Communicate with the casualty.
5. Most importantly...if you can't swim, don't jump in acting like a hero... you will drown!



## FIVES

First played in 1885 in a match between Harrow and Eaton, Fives, also known as 'hand tennis', has now arrived at KEHS.

The game is played in a three-sided court as 'doubles', i.e. in teams of two, players wear padded leather gloves and, as Mark Jones, our Fives coach, himself a winner of many a Fives tournament, summarises, the aim of the game is to: 'hit the ball against the wall with your hand' until a player fails to return the serve and a point is won. Simplicity itself and indeed many girls from first year to sixth form have embraced the chance to try such a refreshingly new and enjoyable sport.

## UPPER 6TH CHARITY WEEK



Upper Sixth Charity Week started with a bang as the school piled into the music studio for a cake and balloon sale.

The following week included the hilarious 'Miss KEHS Awards' which saw the male staff embracing their feminine side and strutting their stuff down the catwalk dressed as women, congratulations to Mr Shepherd who won the dubious honour of being officially named 'Miss KEHS'.



The U6th and several staff members dressed up in some amazing costumes to round off the week, entering the hall for morning assembly to rapturous applause and laughter from the rest of the school.

Through these events and the sale of roses for Valentine's Day a grand total of £1,110 was raised for Action Aid, congratulations to all the U6th who put in so much time and energy to make this possible!



This edition of HighProfile was compiled by Georgia Dickinson, Shauna Crombie, Priyanka Mandal, Sarah Lam and Simran Virdee.