

When Africa Came to B'ham

African Sanctus at St Martin's Church in the Bullring was always going to be an adventure. It is a stunning piece now widely regarded as a significant work of the 20th century choral repertoire. Ethnic African, Islamic and Western music pile one on other and blend together. The Choral Society and musicians did a fantastic job with this exciting piece where the recordings of African music combine with the traditional framework of the Latin Mass to make the sound technicians' job as central as the percussionists. Jinah Shim on the piano and Jenny Payne, soprano, were outstanding. The audience was in raptures and demanded an encore, chosen by conductor Martin Monks to be the hauntingly beautiful Lord's Prayer.



Staff/Sixth Form Reading Group

A lively meeting of the group explored the novella 'Breakfast at Tiffany's'. Opinions varied on the effectiveness of the portrayal of the heroine, Holly and whether she was likeable or not. A number of the group were familiar with other 20th century American writers and were interested to draw comparisons in theme and style. How well do male writers ever depict women was one question raised! The next reading group will meet on Wednesday 4th July and the book will be 'On the Road' by Jack Kerouac - another American writer. Parents are most welcome to join us for these meetings.



Top Girls

The Theatre Studies AS group presented a section of Top Girls by C Churchill as the culmination of their performance work over the year. This gritty play that throws up challenging feminist issues was brilliantly produced and showed the range of the girls' drama skills as well as their sensitive interpretation of the text.



Young Enterprise

Congratulations to both our Young Enterprise companies who participated in the South Birmingham Company Competition Area Final. There were 3 awards on offer for the 7 companies that participated. Very Cherry gained the award for the 'Best Product/Service'. Hoodwinked did exceptionally well and won the 'Best Company' award. They then went onto the Birmingham and Solihull Strategic Finals, where they came away with the Best Presentation Award. Up against six other finalists, our company came over as highly professional and well prepared.



Slushies at the NEC

On April 25th Rishum Butt, Ruth Hobbs, Helen Pennington, Laura Scott and Mrs Hall went to the NEC for the Celebration and Assessment day at the end of the Engineering Education Scheme. This year's project had been to investigate the flow properties of ice slurry beverages (better known as slushies) for IMI Cornelius. The girls had performed experiments with different concentrations of syrup at different temperatures. Emptying the machine after each experimental session was achieved by offering a free slushie to anyone in KEHS who came with a cup. This also provided useful consumer feedback! At the NEC the girls gave an oral presentation of their findings along with a display, including free slushies, at their stand. All went well and the representative from IMI was very impressed with the work that the girls had achieved.



KEHS Russian Society

On Tuesday May 1st, several U5th and 6th form girls and their parents enjoyed a performance of Chekhov's 'Three Sisters' at Warwick Arts Centre. It was an outstanding performance, all the better for being performed in the original Russian (albeit with English surtitles!). Reading some of Chekhov's short stories is part of the A level Russian course.



Dates for Diaries

Monday 4th June Parents' Association AGM 7.00
 Sunday 1st July Dream Futures Symphony Hall 7.30
 Tuesday 3rd July Summer concert Symphony Hall 7.30
 Thursday 5th July Open Evening 5:00 - 8:00 pm
 SUMMER FETE Thursday 12th July.

Sports News

The summer season has started well with fixtures in tennis and rounders already having been played against Newcastle-under-Lyme School, Fiveways School and Edgbaston High School.

In the Aberdare cup - the Senior tennis team played against Stourbridge College but unfortunately lost by 4 rubbers to 2.

In the Girls' Lawn Tennis Tournament which is in its 96th year, we entered three teams in the various tournaments. In the first couples tournament there where three teams on equal match wins but after counting up games won the team was placed fourth. In the second couples tournament we came second and in the friendly tournament we were placed first.

The PE Department also organised an excursion to the NIA this term to watch New Zealand play Australia at netball. Over thirty girls came with us and the game was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

King Edward VI High School for Girls

KEHS News

May 2007

Home and Away

Iceland



During the Easter holiday, a group of sixth-form geography students visited Iceland, where we were given the opportunity to see many of the geographical features we have studied as part of the A level course. As well as visits to several waterfalls, geysers, a caldera and, Mrs Hutton's favourite, basalt columns, we soaked up the local culture at Reykjavik cathedral, the folk museum at Skogarfoss and even the habitat



(apparently) of a group of elves. Many thanks go to Mrs Hutton, Miss Rance and Miss Evans, who all accompanied us on the trip, as well as our native guide, Pietre, and driver, Magnus.

The Normandy Landings

During the Easter holidays the annual KEHS and KES history visit to Normandy took place. The main focus of the visit was to give students an opportunity to investigate the Bayeux Tapestry. The hotel in Normandy really looked after us well, even offering us some French delicacies to sample including moules mariniere and Normandy cheeses.

Thanks must go to Miss Asher, Miss Balnaves and Mr. Davies from KES. Mr. Davies' encyclopaedic knowledge of all things historical meant that everyone came home much wiser than when they left home. Miss Jackson and Mrs. Burnett thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and were delighted that many new friendships were forged on this trip.



D of E in Malaysia and Borneo. They spent 4 nights camping and walking through some spectacular scenery between Penrith and Windermere. Although footsore and weary they all completed the challenge and felt it was good practice for their forthcoming expedition. Well done everyone.

Buxton Training Weekend

In March the girls going to Malaysia and Borneo undertook their extended training weekend, which helps them to prepare for their summer expedition. The skills they learned include packing a rucksack, shopping for the group, cooking on a Trangia stove, map reading and



campsite skills. The weather was not what they will expect on the other side of the world as some of the groups had to contend with snow, hail and rain. They realised that putting up a tent in the rain and wind was not for the faint hearted and thermals were the order of the day to ward off the cold. Hopefully in Malaysia/Borneo that won't be a problem. However the heat maybe! Saturday was spent trekking round the Peak District with full packs and although it was hard going the magnificent views made up for the hard work. At the end the girls felt it had given them a taste of the expedition, that they could cope with anything and were really looking forward to July.

Lower Fourth Residential Trip To Llangattock

During the Easter holidays, over 20 Lower Fourth girls went on a residential activity trip to Llangattock for five days. This trip was a rewarding, exciting learning experience, promoting leadership, teamwork and problem solving skills. The course also encouraged the girls to develop good communication with other members of the group, and a level of environmental awareness.

Overall, the girls had an excellent time and gained a lot of valuable skills, as well as lasting memories from the experience.



Gold D of E Practice

With the sun shining and full packs several teams took to the hills of the Lake District hoping to complete their gold practice so they can complete their gold



Biology at KEHS

May 2007

The Department

The Biology department consists of Head of Biology (and Science) Mr R. M. Hopkinson and three full time staff Mrs J. Bagnall, Mrs J. Whitehead and Mrs C. Pollard. Mrs S. Baghi teaches part time and Mrs L. Scamp is our full time and treasured technician.

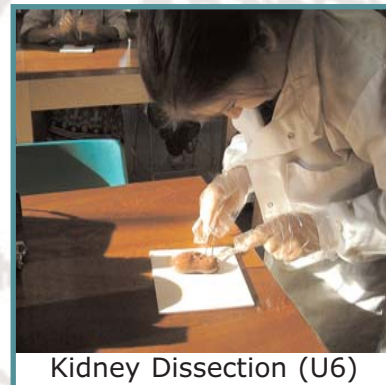
Curriculum

The Biology department seeks to support the aims of the school through delivering an exciting and relevant curriculum in terms of understanding living systems.

The thirds (year 7) look at the variety of life and use apparatus of all types from microscopes to choice chambers in order to study it. Reproduction both sexual and asexual is studied.

The lower fourth (year 8) look at insects (an incredibly successful animal group). We keep Locusts, Stick Insects and Giant African Cockroaches in order to study metamorphosis. The second part of the year is based on micro-organisms and practicals on yeast (a micro-fungus) are carried out.

In the first two years we wish to encourage an interest in the living world and a desire to investigate it by experiment.



Kidney Dissection (U6)

In the upper fourth (year 9) we start the GCSE specification, which is OCR Biology B (Gateway). This continues for the next three years in the lower fifth and upper fifth (years 10 and 11). Practical assessments known as 'Can Do Tasks' are carried out throughout the course and count towards the final GCSE grade. A second assessment on 'Science in the News' is performed during the upper fifth year, again counting towards the final GCSE grade. Biology at GCSE is popular and no student has opted out of the GCSE course in the last six years. Every

aspect of Biology is studied and the textbook is directly linked to the course. It stresses the applications and effects on humans.

At AS and A2 (years 12 and 13) Biology is very popular. In 2006/2007 there are 45 AS students and 46 A2 students with four sets in each year. In the lower sixth year three modules are studied and a practical assessment carried out. This practical counts directly towards the final AS grade. Topics are a mixture of classical human Biology (heart and lungs) with modern recombinant DNA technology (genetic engineering and cloning).

In the upper sixth year the environment linked to organisms, energy and continuity are studied as two modules. A third module (special topic) on behaviour and populations or microbes and disease is taken. There is a practical assessment again counting towards the final grade.

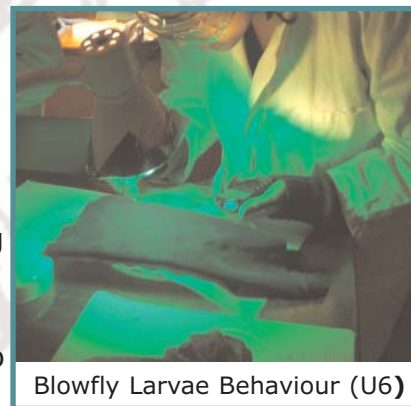
We have a huge resource of apparatus, books and multimedia to support these sixth form courses.



Aspergillus oryzae (U6)



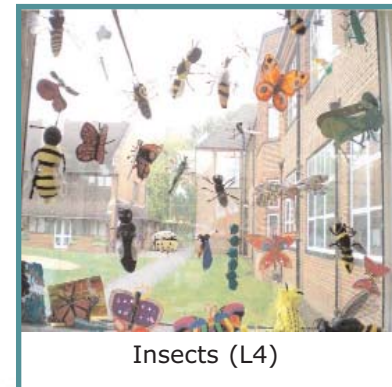
Micropropagation U4



Blowfly Larvae Behaviour (U6)

Opportunities for Enrichment

In years 7 and 8 we run model competitions. The thirds make a flower and the lower fourth an insect. They work over the Easter holidays and what they produce is always of a high standard.



Insects (L4)

Scientific accuracy is judged and we award book prizes to each form. The upper fourth have an ecology field day where we carry out measurements on species in their natural environment.

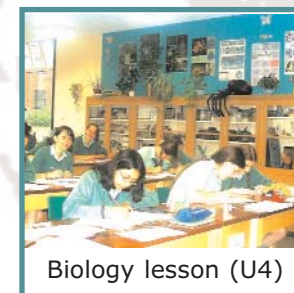
The upper fifth have a visit to The Natural History Museum in South-Kensington, an amazing resource showing the variety of life.

The upper sixth field course in the September of year 13 is at Borth in Mid-Wales, where we study a sand dune ecosystem. This is a residential course of four days duration.

Sixth formers take up Nuffield bursaries to do work at university departments over the

summer and give talks to their peers and invited guests on their research.

The Biological Review (an excellent publication) is on offer on a subscription basis.



Biology lesson (U4)

Junior science club enables lower school students to extend their science experiences by carrying out experiments not in the specifications. We have looked at leaf pigments using chromatography and the soil fauna using Tullgren funnels.



Field Trip (U6)

A Successful Department

We have obtained top five awards at A-Level on seven occasions, the latest being Sheila Lumley in 2006. All candidates have passed GCSE Biology since its introduction in 1988.

In 2006 - GCSE A*/A passes were 96%.
AS passes at A/B were 91%
A2 passes at A/B were 93%

The speech day programme for 2006 shows A-Level Biologists at universities throughout the UK doing Dentistry, Medicine and Biological Sciences. In 2006/2007 three students were offered Veterinary Science places at Cambridge. Several able students collect an A grade at AS then pursue Arts subject to A2 and university level. We and the student profit by this symbiotic association. At least they will speak on subjects such as genetically engineered food from a position of factual knowledge.



Natural History Museum (U5)