

HighProfile

Spring/Summer 2006



A Star is Born

The Little Shop Of Horrors p4

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Top Independent School in the Country



In 2005 pupils at King Edward VI High School for Girls achieved some of the best external examination results to date. Along with the unique and vibrant atmosphere of the school, this achievement earned us the title of The Sunday Times Independent School of the Year for 2005.

This is a superb accomplishment and really reflects the hard work and effort that both pupils and teachers have put into the school year. As well as this accolade the school came top out of all the independent schools in the country in both the A Level and GCSE league tables published in January 2006 by the DfES. Another astonishing achievement! The Sunday Times and other national newspapers all commented on the ethos of the school, which underpins the girls' attitude to both work and the rich extra-curricular opportunities on offer. High Profile took this chance to interview Miss Evans and hear her thoughts on the school:

Miss Evans, what was your reaction to being top of the league tables this year?

I was absolutely delighted! It was an astonishing achievement to come top of both A Level and GCSE tables in the independent sector. However, we mustn't be too blinded by this achievement, because there is such a tiny difference in figures between the top 40 schools. For example, one

girl feeling slightly ill for an exam can cause a school to plummet 50 places.

What do you think motivates the girls in this school to push themselves to achieve at the top level?

There are many aspects. The teachers have high expectations of everybody and the girls themselves are encouraged to keep challenging their own capabilities in relation to working towards their personal best, as opposed to merely competing against other people. In addition, parents provide much support for the girls and as a result girls are encouraged to aim for excellence in every aspect of their lives.

How does our ethos make us so different from other schools?

The school is not solely focused on exam success, so although we are delighted when we do well, we recognise that exams are only a part of the school experience. We want a school that values human qualities that can't be assessed in league tables, as well as those that can. King Edward's is a school where we genuinely value individuals and we do not see girls as simply figures and statistics.

What is the reasoning behind studying such a broad range of subjects up to the age of 16?

One characteristic of a well-educated person is someone with a degree of knowledge in a range of different areas; someone who understands enough about science and statistics to be able to ask questions about how the world works, who has a love of literature, who can communicate in at least one foreign language, who understands the roots of our civilization and who is creative. In order to achieve such a rounded education girls need to carry on with a broad range of subjects for as long as possible. In practical terms, this policy ensures that we are closing no doors to careers before we need to.

In what ways do the extra curricular activities of this school enrich the lives of the pupils here?

Here extra-curricular activities are just as important as curricular ones; there is not a clear divide between the two. An example is the staff and 6th form reading group, where girls engage in the same sort of discussion as in the classroom. The important thing is to ensure that knowledge, ideas and scholarship, which are developed in lessons, are not confined to the classroom; these can be applied to the enrichment of all aspects of life.

Thank you Miss Evans for your time.

Lower 6th Charity Week



The Lower Sixth charity week was a great success. On Monday a multitude of enthusiastic 'greenies' danced around the school in time to the rhythm of the conga, making a decidedly marked contrast with the cold winter weather outside!

Tuesday saw the comeback of the good old cake sale, which lured students and teachers alike into a little indulgence, and raised a great deal of money for the sixth form charity, 'Mercy Ships'.

Pupils were in for a shock during Wednesday's assembly when a certain group of 'bandits', dressed from head to toe in black, burst onstage kidnapping Mr. Freeman-Powell! This signalled the start of our very own in-school Cluedo game, which begged the simple question: Who kidnapped Mr. Freeman-Powell?! The Wacky Races took place at lunchtime, where the sixth form girls (and boys from KES) competed in a series of bizarre events, much to the amusement of the spectators. The girls were (of course) victorious.

On Thursday was the much-awaited 'Karaoke', in which all the forms battled it out to win the prestigious title of 'Karaoke Winner 2005'. All of the dances were highly inventive and provided everyone with much entertainment, as did Mr Hope's debut as Britney Spears...



On Friday certain members of KEHS were somewhat confused as to why a large number of teachers were donning fancy dress outfits. The teacher fashion parade began at the beginning of assembly, certain highlights being Mrs. Hall dressed as Doctor Tedd and Miss Evans as an angel. The Cluedo competition ended off the week in style, with Mr Moore turning out to be the culprit!

Many thanks go to all teachers and pupils involved and all those who supported the events.

Upper 6th Charity Week

In support of Breakthrough Breast Cancer and the Druk White Lotus School in Ladakh, the Upper 6th hosted a whole variety of charity events. This included the ever popular cake sale, the girls v. boys basketball match, the teachers' very own 'Strictly Come Dancing' and the Valentine's rose sale.

One of the highlights of the week was seeing an array of teachers strutting their stuff on the dance floor, with the winners being Mr. Mackinnon and friends entertaining us with a Scottish national highland fling!

The Valentine's rose sale, once again, proved to be highly successful, raising the spirits of all those lucky enough to receive one from the dashing members of the boys' school next door. Members of the Upper 6th also amused us all with their inventive fancy dress costumes, from elaborately clad clowns to Darth Vader and Bob the Builder!

Well done to the Upper 6th for all their hard work and to all those who helped to make this week such a success!

Girls remember at Beth Shalom

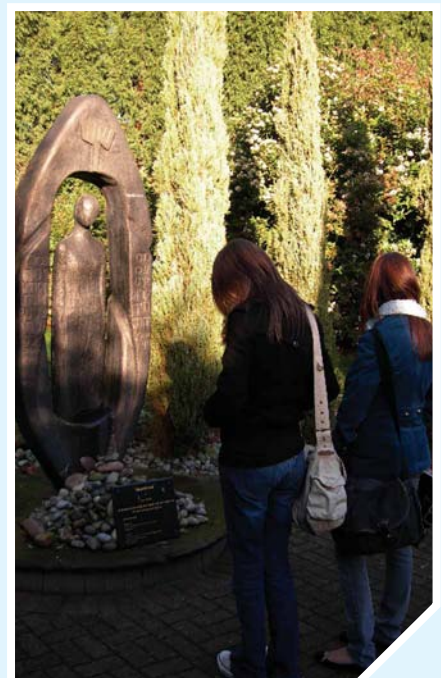
Last November fifty GCSE students battled through the snow to visit the Beth Shalom Holocaust Memorial Museum in Laxton. Rebecca Wallis (L5C) wrote this report:

Beth Shalom (Hebrew for 'house of peace') is a place where people can go to remember those who died and to learn in peace. However, the museum not only focuses on the Holocaust, but also more recent genocides such as that in Rwanda.

We were shown a film about the history of the Holocaust, explaining how it affected people then and what we can learn now. We were separated into two groups and shown around the museums and gardens, and found the rose that KEHS had dedicated in memory of the children who perished in Auschwitz and also placed a pebble for the children who were killed during the Shoah (leaving a stone or pebble is the usual way Jews mark a visit to a grave or memorial).

Finally we listened to a talk by two survivors of the Holocaust. This trip was important in helping us to understand this poignant part of history, and the experience will stay with us for a long time; we also realised that prejudice needs confronting before it can escalate.

'He who saves a single life saves the world entire'



High Profile

The Little Shop of Horrors

Sexy nurses. Man-eating plant. Skid Row. Sadistic Dentist. Death and love. World domination. Little Shop of Horrors.

Last term's senior drama production was an unusual tale involving a young boy, Seymour, living on Skid Row and stuck in a dead end job in a flower shop. However, things start to look up for Seymour when he comes across an unusual plant that no one can identify. Soon the whole of America is learning about the plant, Audrey II, but



This bin is really uncomfortable!

only Seymour knows its deadly secret; the plant has a bizarre eating habit...blood. Before long Audrey II is manipulating Seymour into giving him more food by threatening to take away everything that it has brought him, influencing Seymour so much that even the people closest to Seymour are not safe. With the love of his life, Audrey, gone and with nothing left to live for Seymour gives up his life to kill Audrey II, but to no avail. With no one left to warn the rest of the country of the plant, it accomplishes what it came to do...achieve world domination.

Jack Jeffries as the leading man, Seymour, gave a really convincing performance of someone who went from a nobody to the most famous man on Skid Row and then losing everything and having nothing left to live for. His acting and singing were exceptional and he really captured the American spirit.

The leading lady and the love of Seymour's life was played by Sophie Graham who captivated the audience with her energy and squeaky voice. Her costume was also creative and daring especially her blond wig and bright red nails.

The sadistic dentist and Audrey's boyfriend was played by Ben Anderson who really got into character and gave an excellent performance of someone who got pleasure from inflicting pain on others. His amazing voice and stage presence was one of the highlights of the production.

Audrey II, the flesh eating plant, was voiced by Seb Heaven who really brought the plant to life. Audrey II's catchphrase "FEED ME!!" was on the school's lips for weeks. The plant itself was amazingly constructed and showed us the magic that stage crew could do.

Mr. Mushnik, with his expanding waistline, was played by debutante Phil Marzouk who oozed confidence and he convincingly played the part of a down and out shop owner.

The urchins were played by Nadine Johnson, Lydia Parnell and Miriam Elgon. They had an amazing thirteen costume changes, each one more extravagant than the last. They managed to combine ghetto and geisha girls, making the whole performance flow.

The company was composed of L6th and U6th boys and girls, whose commitment and dedication to the production was clear for all to

see, and the spirit of the show was really emphasised by their professional attitude.

The orchestra this year was made up of only a few musicians compared to orchestras of past years. However, the music accompanying the vocals was of a very high standard without a dud note in sight. The music helped create an atmosphere so that the company could play the part well but also so the audience felt the same emotions that the characters did.

However, these amazing performances could not have been achieved without the help of the experienced drama and music teachers. The hard work of Miss. Proops, Mrs. Herbert and Mr. Monks was clearly evident. Their creative vision and late nights staying after school during the week and at weekends certainly paid off, creating an unforgettable senior production.

Geisha Girls strut their stuff!



Vanity Fair

An interview with some of the leading girls in **Vanity Fair** - Emily Mitchell, Abigail Lewis & Charlotte Merriam

What character did you play?

Emily Mitchell: Mrs. O'Dowd.

Abigail Lewis: Older Amelia Sedley.

Charlotte Merriam: Older Becky Sharp.

What did you most enjoy about being involved in the production?

Abigail: The new people I met and the friendships I made. The atmosphere was so amazing and the people who were involved were all working their hardest to make the production work. I have made so many new friends.

Which is your favourite scene and why?

Abigail: I have two. One is where "Older Rawdon" almost kills "Older Becky" because Chris and Charlotte are such amazing actors and it's a really dramatic scene, and the second scene where I have a fight with "Older Becky". I love acting with Charlie and this scene is also very dramatic.

Charlotte: The dramatic scene near the end, I enjoyed screaming and everything else. It was extremely dramatic.

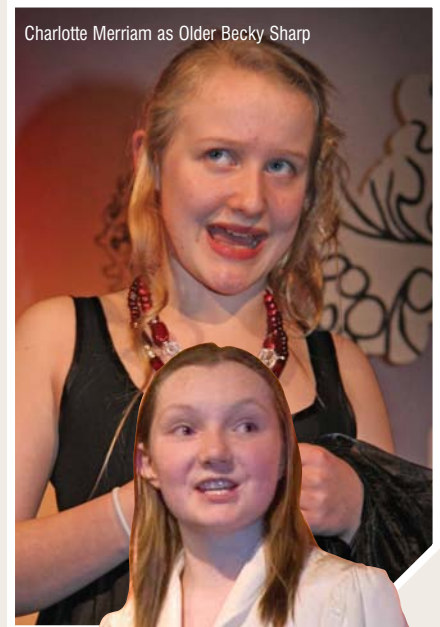
Which character do you identify with the most?

Emily: I think I have a little bit of everyone in me, but I don't identify with one particular character.

What was the funniest moment during the production?

Emily: There were many funny moments, too many to say. The production weekend was an enjoyable weekend. I don't think there was one rehearsal where I didn't laugh. I enjoyed every minute of it!

Charlotte: Emily Mitchell had a great accent and her scenes were always very funny!



Charlotte Merriam as Older Becky Sharp



Sarah Baghdadi and other cast members



Emily Mitchell as Mrs O'Dowd

High Profile

Magic, Mystery & Murder

This year's dance production was based upon these three intriguing words.

During the evening there was a real mix of music complemented by some wonderfully eccentric costumes. The production featured ballet to robotic style dancing. However, it didn't matter what style of dance it was, the dancers enjoyed doing it and the audience found the performances entertaining.

The sixth form solos, including those of Sahiti Koneru and Melanie Etti, stood out among the performances.

The hard work put in by all the dancers meant that the performances were of a very high standard making this particular dance production one of the best yet.



Mel Etti in her superb dance Ghost



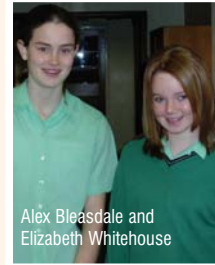
Monster performed by the U4th



Dance President Sahiti Koneru and Vice President Gabriella Gardosi In Superstition

Sporting Success Strikes KEHS

Sporting achievements are ever present in the school, and this term has been no exception.



Alex Bleasdale and Elizabeth Whitehouse

Well done to Alex Bleasdale (U4c) and Elizabeth Whitehouse (U4a) who have both been selected for the England U14 Rounders Squad.

Congratulations also to Melanie Etti who has been selected to play for the England U19 Netball team. Celia Butler has achieved success in hockey having been selected for the Midlands U17 Hockey Squad.

We are extremely proud of these fantastic achievements, and wish the girls and their teams the best of luck in the future.



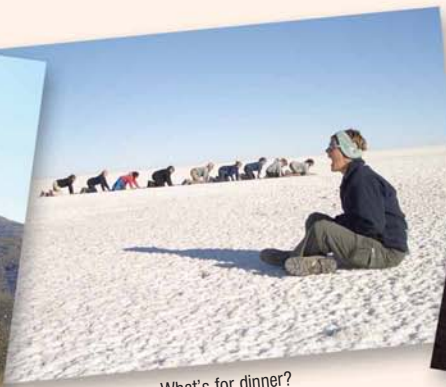
Celia Butler

Journey into the Unknown

We have all heard about last summer's trip to Bolivia and we know that **Team 2** had an equally exciting and adventurous time as you can see from these stunning pictures.



Where did that mountain go? It's behind you



What's for dinner?



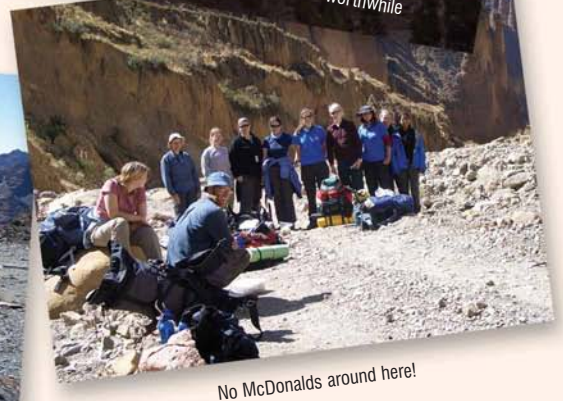
Fantastic sunsets make the tiredness worthwhile



Taking in the beautiful scenery of Bolivia

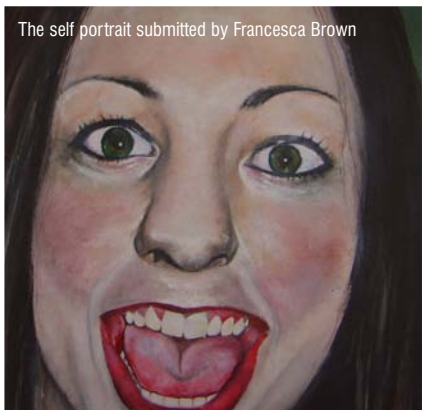


We decided to have a lie in



No McDonalds around here!

The Next Tracey Emin/Frida Kahlo?



The self portrait submitted by Francesca Brown



The corset painting by Emma Mack

Two girls from KEHS have shown their evident artistic talent as their artwork was chosen to be displayed at a national exhibition at the County Hall Gallery in London.

The work was chosen as part of the Edexcel Celebrates - Art & Design Exhibition, which ran from the 7th – 11th November 2005.

Although 10 KEHS girls were shortlisted, only two

girls were able to have their artwork displayed. These were Francesca Brown (who has since left KEHS to study at university), whose submitted work was a self-portrait and Emma Mack (U6C), who submitted a GCSE painting.

Our congratulations go to these two talented girls and we wish them every success in the future should they wish to further their artistic development.

Amsterdam Trip

In the Spring half term Miss Edwards, Miss Seamark and a number of AS and A level students embarked on an exciting trip to Amsterdam, where they immersed themselves in the culture of the capital city, with a main focus on visiting the many art galleries.

Highlights included the Rijksmuseum, the Van Gogh Museum, Anne Frank's house and Rembrandt's house. Everyone involved also enjoyed escaping the fast pace of the main city by relaxing in the famous Kröller Müller statue park. Another perk of the trip was the wonderful nightlife that Amsterdam had to offer.

Elizabeth Dean, an AS level art student, describes her experience: "Visiting Amsterdam was an amazing opportunity to really get engrossed in all of the art that the city had to offer, and it was wonderful to have such a first-hand taste of the Dutch culture. Overall it was a priceless experience."

THE BIG PHYSICS QUIZ



To commemorate 'Einstein Year', the University of Birmingham organised a Big Physics Quiz for teams of four students from Year 9 for all West Midlands schools. We sent three teams, one from each Upper Fourth class.

From an entry of 52 teams, U4B was the eventual winner!

The team, comprising Bethany Allan, Shantal Deepak, Upasana Bhaumik and Rachel Dunstan, scored high marks on each round during the morning session— including one consisting of questions on Einstein himself – to win a place in the final held in the afternoon. Having taken part in a nail-biting finish with a team from Warwick School, the girls came away with a multitude of prizes. These included: a trophy, which is to be awarded annually, a replica trophy to keep, winners' medals, MP3 players for each girl and a cheque for £250 for the school!

Congratulations to all three teams, who performed extremely well, and enjoyed their day of quiz questions and activities.

Sixth Form Seminar

At the beginning of March two upper sixth form students, Laura Huang and Sanaa Ismail presented their research papers to a panel of invited guests including university academics, doctors, members of staff and fellow 6th form students.

Sanaa's presentation paper was on the very rare and disturbing disease Cotards syndrome.

Laura's research paper focused on the physics behind bird flight. Both papers were well received and indicated the high level of academic research carried out by both of the students.



Sanaa Ismail and her Mother



Laura Huang and her parents

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

This year there have been some excellent events organised and run by the Parents' Association (PA).

In November there was our very popular quiz evening and in March the PA organised a highly enjoyable 'Indian Theme' evening with delicious food and Indian dancing.



The PA's Quiz Night in November



Ready to eat during the 'Indian Theme' evening

High Profile

SAYING GOODBYE



Miss Dovey, Mrs Lessar, Mrs Flint

At the end of this term we say goodbye to Mrs Lessar, Mrs Flint, Miss Dovey and Mrs Jones. Read our school magazine for more detailed articles on each of these valued members of staff.

We wish them all a happy retirement.

ME & MRS JONES

ME AND MRS JONES by Chris Tovey

For 25 years Mrs. Jones has served this High school Dealing with girls, parents, staff – quite the office jewel

Admission applications, UCAS references taken in her stride Letters, adverts and handbooks produced with pride

Putting up with my jokes, she is quite the star But a twitch of her cardigan tells me if I go too far!

She takes care of me – setting off at great pace To find the culprit who dares to park their car in my space!

But, now into retirement she has decided to go Leaving me all alone and full of woe

How I shall miss her, I can't begin to say Who will fight all my battles – Mrs. Jones don't go, STAY!



This Issue

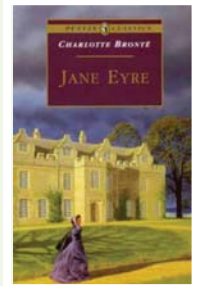
This Issue of High Profile was brought to you by L-R Sarah Hindley, Emily Chester, Taneesha Pawar & Jess Lloyd.



WUTHERING HEIGHTS OF HAWORTH

Just before Christmas, nine budding English students, accompanied by Miss White, Mr Hope and Mr Hopkinson, went to Haworth, a small Yorkshire village, which became home to perhaps the most talented literary family this country has ever known - the Brontës.

The girls from KEHS visited Haworth Parsonage, where the Reverend Patrick Bronte set up home, with his wife, Maria, and their six children: Maria, Elizabeth, Charlotte, Branwell, Emily and Anne. This visit gave KEHS students an opportunity to view a number of artifacts relating to the family, including amongst other things letters, items of clothing and even locks of hair!



Perhaps one of the most surreal moments of the visit was when the girls were given the opportunity to see the couch where Emily Brontë supposedly died. The sixth formers managed to find the time amongst all of this to rehearse famous lines from the classic novel 'Wuthering Heights' in the locations that would have inspired it. The visit was enjoyed by all and was a unique opportunity for the girls to see the home of the three famous sisters and see how their often-bleak environment influenced their writing.



Our Faith Our City

On Saturday 26th November 2005, some enthusiastic sixth form Religious Studies students attended the College for International Citizenship at the Young People's Parliament situated at Millennium Point, Birmingham for a collection of talks based on the idea of 'Our Faith Our City'.

The day consisted of a number of short presentations by young people (including our very own Emma Youngs L6A) talking about their faith in order to establish common values between all faiths in our diverse and multi-cultural city.

Members from the Buddhist, Sikh, Christian, Islam and Bahai faiths talked openly on their views about their faith and how it affects their lives to give a positive framework for living. 'A Faith Quiz' ensued with the group receiving a superb free lunch at the Namdhari Sikh Gurdwara. The girls were then put into groups, which managed to come up with a 'Statement of Agreed Values' for all faiths, some of which are listed below:

- "We cherish all people & the world we live in."*
- "We believe we should show respect & understanding to other peoples & cultures."*
- "We want to challenge and remove stereotypes."*
- "We have the right to affirm our spiritual identity through chosen pathways."*
- "We believe that religion should be a proactive force for good."*
- "We respect the human rights of all peoples."*
- "We support the right of all people to live in peace."*

The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all, and a special thanks goes to Mrs Young, who was one of the session facilitators, for giving girls the opportunity to attend such a valuable and thought-provoking conference.

King Edward VI High School for Girls, Edgbaston Park Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2UB Tel: 0121 472 1834

All warmly welcome

KEHS OPEN EVENING

THURSDAY 6th JULY
5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Sunday Times Independent School of the Year

Your adventure starts here!

WORLD CHALLENGE 2007

Our next World Expedition Challenge in 2007 will take students of KEHS to **Malaysia** and **Borneo**

For more information visit our website
www.kingedshs.bham.sch.uk/home/malaysia