

# king's high news

Autumn 09



*New Year 7 girls enjoy  
their bonding weekend  
in Shropshire*

# Letter from the Headmistress

I always enjoy coming back to school in September to meet up again with current pupils and to get to know our new ones. The girls bounced back to school in excellent spirits which clearly had not been dampened by the poor summer weather. We welcomed 100 new pupils in total, from 46 different schools, and the following members of staff: Mr Christopher Allison (Saxophone Teacher), Dr Michael Barwell (Teacher of Art), Mrs Julie Day (Teacher of Religious Studies), Mrs Alison Falconer Hall (Librarian), Ms Kate Gibson (Teacher of French and Spanish), Mrs Elisabeth Heissler (German Assistante), Miss Sara Higgins (Teacher of Ballet), Mrs Sue Marshall (Teacher of LAMDA/Speech & Drama), Miss Danielle Mason (Flute Teacher), Mrs Cindy Masterson (Teacher of Pilates), Ms Imogen Peace (Head of Classics), Mr Oliver Pinel (Teacher of English), Mr John Wood (Head of Sixth Form, Teacher of History & Economics).



Celebrating A Level success



Happiness at GCSE Achievement

In our first assembly of term I was delighted to share with everyone the excellent school news from the holiday. The exam results were again most pleasing with 87% A & B at A2 and 80% A & A\* at GCSE. The L6 outdid themselves with an exceptional 90% A & B at AS. The holiday trips to South Africa (hockey tour) and to India (Year 12 culture, sightseeing and working in a school) were highly successful. Mrs Hewitt, who accompanied the India trip again, described the participants as "superb". In particular they rose to the

challenge of teaching in very demanding conditions in the school in Dundlod with fortitude, imagination and good humour which made me very proud of them.

The third piece of excellent holiday news was the completion of our long awaited Creative Arts Centre. Within the atmospheric shell of the listed former St Nicholas Borough School, it provides an inspiring contemporary environment for our girls in which to create, practise, and perform. We are already teaching there but the official Opening will be on 9th December by Miss Catherine Bott, a former pupil of the school, internationally acclaimed classical singer and regular Radio 3 presenter.



Sixth formers teaching in Dundlod



Art Studio in the new Creative Arts Centre

I have enjoyed meeting many of you again already at the start of year Parents' Evenings and specially welcoming our new parents to King's. I hope the new "e" communication system will enable you all to keep in touch even better with the school. Please read our website frequently for the very latest King's news.

I shall shortly be sending you all, by post (with luck), the traditional Report of the last academic year; I hope the coming year will be one of aspiration, achievement and success for your daughters, and look forward to seeing you again.

**Elizabeth Surber, Headmistress**

*Elizabeth Surber*

## End of Term – Summer break

### Channel Swim

In July, two teams made up of three King's High girls, Alex Riley, Evie Gill and Rebecca Sherren, along with a group of Warwick school boys completed two English Channel crossings. They succeeded in reaching their target of £10,000 for the local Acorns Children's Hospice. Both teams encountered bad weather including the cold, fog, currents, unexpected winds and choppy seas. Each swam for an hour at a time in the cold, jellyfish and tanker-filled waters until the next swimmer overtook to swim the next leg. Both teams made it to France, one team in 11 hours and 38 minutes and the other in 12 hours and 38 minutes. It is a fantastic achievement for all the participants and a testimony to their resilience.



Back on dry land!

### Hockey Tour

South Africa was the venue for the Hockey Tour for thirty one King's High girls and four members of staff in July. The two King's teams played five challenging hockey matches against some very strong South African opposition. As well as playing hockey, they also managed to fit in some sightseeing: visiting Pretoria, the Entabeni Game reserve, the Langa Township, Robben Island and Cape Point. The most rewarding part of the trip was when the girls visited the Goedgedacht Trust in Cape Town for which they had raised a significant amount of money in advance. While they were there the pre-school children sang beautifully for the girls.



Girls enjoying 'blindfolded canoeing'

### India Trip

At the beginning of the Summer break, eighteen sixth formers experienced an unforgettable trip to India, led by Mrs Hewitt. Spectacular historical sites visited included Qutub Minar, Himayun's Tomb, the Taj Mahal and Amber Fort in Jaipur which was reached by the girls on elephants!

The highlight of the trip came when girls spent a week excelling themselves in planning and delivering lessons to hundreds of pupils aged 5-16 at the Dundlod International School. The girls painted an outstanding mural and delivered £3000 raised by their efforts in the preceding months.



King's High Sixth Formers in India

### Old Girls' Netball

As the Summer break came to a close, a team of King's High girls challenged three Old Girls' teams in a friendly netball tournament played at the Field. The Old Girls spent a long time catching up but did manage to fit a little netball in! The victorious team was assisted by two current King's girls and two members of staff.



Back on the King's High courts again!

## New Beginnings

We welcomed new Year 7 girls from 46 different schools this year. They started a day earlier than the rest of the school and have settled in quickly. A number of initiatives have ensured the progression from primary to secondary school is an easy one:

### Bonding Weekend

A great time was had by all the new Year 7 girls at Boreatton Park during their Bonding Weekend. The weekend away in mid-September allowed them to meet and make new friends. The PGL centre set in 250 acres of superb grounds was the background for a wide range of fun and challenging activities including rafting, a giant swing, high ropes and Jacob's Ladder.

The girls were accompanied by ten members of staff and ten sixth formers who all joined in the fun.



Don't look down girls!



Using teamwork to succeed

### Mothers, Sisters and Daughters

During their first week at school our new Year 7 girls met their sixth form "mothers" on Red House Lawn. This scheme encourages the older girls to take part in the care of the younger ones. Each pair had ample opportunity to chat while enjoying ice-



Helping Year 7 settle in to life at King's High

creams in the late summer sunshine. The "mothers" will be able to ease their "daughters" into life at King's and will be on hand to provide support to the new girls throughout the forthcoming year. As well as sixth form mothers the girls are also introduced to their Year 8 sisters. Again, this support can help the new Year 7 settle into life at King's High.

## First Thoughts from Kate, Year 7

One of our new Year 7 starters, Kate (formerly of Claverdon Junior & Infant School), shared with us her thoughts on joining King's High:



First assembly with Mrs Surber

"When I started King's I was excited and also a tiny bit nervous as I didn't really know what to expect on my first day. I knew a couple of people from other schools that would

also be in Year 7 but I didn't know them very well. On the first day I was asked to go in slightly earlier with all the other girls who were the only ones from their old primary school. We then met up with all our classmates (I'm in class 7S) and were given folders and our locker numbers. The whole of Year 7 then had a special Assembly with Mrs Surber and she explained to us what would happen over the next few weeks.

King's is very different from my old primary school. It's much bigger and has lots more pupils. In my primary school I only had one teacher, at King's I have a teacher for every subject. You also get to do lots of different subjects that we didn't do in primary school. I really enjoy Drama, English and DT – in DT we are making photo frames using saws and machines which is brilliant fun. At the moment I am also enjoying practising for the Year 7 concert that we are rehearsing in our music lessons.



DT

There are loads of clubs that you can join in Year 7 and I have signed up for netball, tennis, hip hop, choir and hockey. Hip-hop is a really fun thing to do at lunch time with your friends. I tried out for the netball team and was



Physical Education

chosen as captain of the B team. We won our first match 13 – 1; I am really pleased!

I love the way everybody is really friendly at King's. If you were lost and went up to someone to ask for directions they wouldn't mind helping at all. I also like the mother system: this is where you have someone in their final years at King's helping you through your first year.

It's great at King's and I'm really enjoying it!"

## New Developments

### Creative Arts Centre

The completion of our long awaited Creative Arts Centre has caused much excitement this term. Whilst the building will be officially opened on 9th December, lessons have already begun in the new DDA compliant and eco-friendly centre. This new environment provides the girls with a multi-purpose studio – a space where students can take part in drama, music and dance, a new drama studio, additional arts room and dark room. The Music Department are also benefiting from their new facilities which include a keyboard studio and a recording studio.



Pupils using the new facilities

### Drama Workshops – Anne Frank

During the Autumn term, King's High will be running several drama workshops for primary schools to explore the Diary of Anne Frank and World War 2. These will run in the new Creative Arts Studio the week prior to the King's High production, "Tales From The Hidden Annexe", a play about Anne Frank. They will be the first of several events where the school opens its new facilities to local schools.

### New School Officers and Head of Sixth Form

2009 school officers with the new Head of Sixth Form Mr Wood. From left to right: Jesse Hain (Deputy Head Girl), Rosanna Seal (Head Girl), Aman Dhoo (Senior Prefect) and Mr Wood.



## Autumn News

### Hockey Tournament Success

On the first Friday in September, our XI Hockey team travelled to Rugby School to compete against 12 other schools in a prestigious pre-season Hockey tournament. King's High not only won the tournament but were the only team not to concede any games. A great start to the season – well done to the whole squad!

### British Food Fortnight

British Food Fortnight was marked this year with various activities for girls in their Food Technology lessons. Year 7 students looked at the concept of food miles and visited a local allotment to view ingredients in season while Year 10 students were challenged to produce a dish with the minimum food miles. Harriet Dickin managed 0 miles thanks to vegetables and herbs grown at home and chops from a lamb reared on her farm!! Chefs from "Simpson's" have also demonstrated their skills to Year 10 girls which they found a very enjoyable and useful experience.



Utilising local food

### Taster Morning

On Saturday 26 September one hundred and fifty Year 6 girls visited our school to enjoy a fun morning of taster activities. They participated in events ranging from making pizzas in Food Technology, transforming shapes in Maths, exploring human body parts in Science to learning tennis skills in Physical Education. Girls particularly enjoyed visiting the new Creative Arts Centre where



they took part in Drama activities and made music in the new Keyboard Studio. The morning was a great success and enjoyed by everyone.

Science lesson at Taster Morning

## Autumn News continued

### German Exchange

We recently welcomed 22 students from Lüneburg in Germany to our school and to Warwick. The students were hosted by girls in Years 9-10 and enjoyed participating in some classes at King's as well as visiting local landmarks. Sights visited included Warwick Castle, the Black Country Museum and visits to London and Birmingham.



German Exchange students visit KHS

### Harvest Festival and Coffee Morning

The annual Harvest Festival and Macmillan Coffee Morning took place on Friday 26th September. Every girl in the school was encouraged to bring in a harvest donation to support the valuable work done by Leamington Christian Mission and the Salvation Army Church. The Macmillan Coffee morning took place straight after the Harvest Festival. Thanks to the support of parents and friends, a fabulous total of £743 was raised for the Macmillan Cancer Charity.

Enjoying coffee and cake for a good cause



### King's in the Community

Community Service at King's High has been an integral part of the school for many years. It is our intention that all girls should have an opportunity to provide Community Service by the time they leave King's. Many of our girls already participate in a variety of ventures that help the community as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme or in Year 13 during Thursday afternoon activities. One such activity is visiting the elderly. Mrs Southeard, a local elderly resident looks forward to her weekly visits from sixth formers, Kirsten, Isobel and Sarah and enjoys hearing all their news.



King's girls visit Mrs Southeard

### Eighteenth Birthday Celebrations

The Headmistress hosted a birthday celebration recently for girls who had recently celebrated their landmark eighteenth birthdays. Seen here Jaaneeta Sandhu, Mimi Beckett, Flo MacKenzie, Olivia Wale, Kirsty Howell enjoy cakes with Mrs Surber.



Birthday celebrations

### Important Dates for your Diary:

November 7th 2009	Open Morning for prospective pupils and parents (9.30am – 12noon)
November 20th & 21st 2009	"Tales From the Hidden Annexe": The Story of Anne Frank
December 8th 2009	Christmas Concert, Guy Nelson Hall
December 9th 2009	Official Opening of the Creative Arts Centre by Catherine Bott
December 17th 2009	Carol Service, St. Mary's Church
December 17th 2009	12.15pm End of Autumn Term
January 5th 2010	Term begins
January 23rd 2010	Entrance Examination