

king's high news

Spring 2010



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Outstanding achievement by King's High Applicants

King's High sixth formers will become undergraduates at the most prestigious universities and on the most exciting courses in the country. From the Russell Group, the 1994 Group, the University Alliance and other unaffiliated top institutions, offers came rolling in very early in the UCAS process. Not only was the procedure meticulously followed to produce applications of the highest calibre, but also sheer hard work and determination to succeed ensured success.

Successful Oxbridge applicants left to right: Amie Varney, Katherine Hazelton, Alex Hunter, Olivia Twose, Clara Breakwell, Sally Le Page, Rosanna Seal and Hermione Beckett



An impressive eight sixth formers have been offered places at Oxford and Cambridge. Studying a wide range of subjects from Engineering to Earth Sciences, the sixth formers faced stiff competition to win much sought-after offers of places. 50% of those who applied were successful: well above the national average.

Headmistress, Elizabeth Surber, is delighted with the school's achievement saying, "This is a great result for our school. It is a tribute to the academic aspirations of our students and the dedication of our staff."

And just a glimpse at some of the universities:

Bath, Bristol, Cambridge, Cardiff, Imperial College London, Lancaster, Leeds, Manchester, Nottingham, Oxford, Reading, Sheffield, Southampton, Sussex and Warwick.

and the courses:

Civil and Architectural Engineering, Sport and Exercise Sciences, Aeronautical Engineering, Biology, Chemistry with Industrial Experience, Natural Sciences, Politics, French, Philosophy and Economics, Management Studies, Law, Chinese Studies, Medicine, English, Geology, Classics and American Studies.

Breaking the Mould – Apprentice Challenge Final

Young entrepreneurs at King's High recently faced a grilling from the Apprentice judge Margaret Mountford in a national business competition. Girls at the school joined three other teams for a live final in London in front of a 450-strong audience to compete for prizes totalling £6,000. Our team did extremely well to reach this level of the competition and judges Margaret Mountford, Saira Khan and Tim Campbell, stars of The Apprentice, were impressed with their teamwork and how they dealt with the boardroom questioning. Lisa Buckingham, Editor of the Financial Mail, said, "Faced with the task of devising and bringing to market a game that will make teaching personal finance in the classroom fun as well as educational, 'team Phoenix' wowed the judges with their ingenuity, understanding of the issues, their creativity and mastery of business and finance."

Apprentice Finalists take on the Challenge



Emma Ward wins PR industry award



A brilliant award for Emma, pictured here with Alexander Northcott, award presenter, and BBC's John Inverdale. Emma Ward has been crowned Young Communicator of the Year at a national PR awards ceremony. Emma, who left King's High School after A levels in 1998, received the honour at the Public Relations Consultants Association (PRCA) Awards held in London.

Emma developed a career in the industry after graduating from the University of Reading and then completing a post graduate course in Public and Media Relations at Cardiff University. She is now PR Manager at Marketing Birmingham, an organisation which promotes the city to leisure and business visitors.

During her four years with the company, Emma has managed a variety of PR campaigns and media activity for the Taste of Birmingham food festival and BBC Good Food Show, and a city feature on BBC's Holiday programme.

National recognition for Sue Lewis-Blake

We may know her as Head of Art and Design Technology at King's High, but Sue Lewis-Blake is an important artist in her own right and has been elected an associate member of the prestigious Society of Graphic Fine Art. Sue works from her studio at The Mill, Little Shrewley. She explains: "Art has been a part of my life since my earliest memories and as a teacher of art I've been really fortunate in being able to work entirely within the field, sharing my love of the subject with fellow enthusiasts, both students and colleagues."



'Curtain': recent work by Sue Lewis-Blake

Events

Mardi Gras

Carnival Week in school was a highly creative new venture inspired by Miss Montiel and Year 10. From Miss Montiel's native Venezuela to France, Italy, Spain and Germany, Year 10's colourful and visually exciting assembly presented local cultural traditions and inspired Year 7 to make masks and Year 8 to toss pancakes.



Carnival!

Showcasing drama, dance and music

We can't all attend everything all of the time so it was a real pleasure to be part of the audience for a very special artistic evening in February. Music and drama opened their doors to stage a selection of scenes from recent productions and perform a cleverly mixed programme of modern and classical music, as well as introducing a genre relatively new to the curriculum: dance drama. What talent; what versatility; what a facility!



Music showcase

Catherine Bott revisits King's

The internationally renowned soloist, Catherine Bott, a former pupil, once more visited King's High to teach a wonderful master class based on *Dido and Aeneas* by Henry Purcell. Pupils were coached on their solo roles for the forthcoming concert performance of the Joint Foundation Choir which takes place on Monday 22 March at St Nicholas's Church, Warwick.



Catherine Bott's master class

Happy Birthday, Walter!

Who once lived behind the Blue door? It was the poet, essayist and classicist, Walter Savage Landor. We like to celebrate our acclaimed former resident's birthday and did so this year with a special assembly. He was born 235 years ago! Will King's girls take up his rueful comment, "Never without a pang do I leave the house where I was born.?"



'the one with the waggly tail'

They were certainly fascinated by the box of artefacts, recently donated to the school, which contains spectacles, ribbon and, wait for it, part of the tail of his dog, Pomero, which was a gift from his daughter Julia.

40 Years of Service



this knowledge, along with his carpentry expertise and humour, will be much missed.

In February we said goodbye to our Maintenance Foreman, Mr Barry Smith, who retired after 23 years of service at King's High and 40 in the Foundation as a whole. Barry knew every nook and cranny of our site and

An inspiring reflection

140 old girls from nine decades of the school's history, attended the OGA Annual Lunch in March. Old girls had travelled from as far afield as the UAE, the USA and Italy, chiefly to hear our guest speaker.



Guest speaker – Heather Wallace

Canon Heather Wallace, known to generations of King's High girls as Miss Wallace, taught Music at KHS between 1958 and 1988. Miss Wallace's hugely entertaining speech referenced Tommy Cooper, Enneagram, Google, encounters with Warwick School old boys in the outback, her memories of former King's High colleagues, nuns' undergarments, her poignant tales of childhood in wartime, and her post-King's career at Coventry Cathedral. She urged us all to embrace our own communities, whether they be schools, churches or choirs, and had some sage advice for those of us whose schooldays are several decades behind us: choose friends from all age groups, or you will have nothing to talk about except the colour of your respective pills!

The day concluded with Mr Gellért-Binnie, our Alumnae Relations Manager, playing *Jerusalem* and the guests in full voice. Despite having the words provided, none of us needed them, even after many years away from school.



Old Girls enjoying catching up

A Sponsored Swim, an iron will and the Ironman

King's High and Warwick School demonstrated stamina, strength, skill and commitment by completing a demanding 100 miles sponsored swim and Ironman challenge. They collectively raised over £6,000 for the Meningitis Trust.

The main event was the Ironman challenge in which twelve boys and two girls from King's High girls (Evie Gill Year 10 and Alex Riley Year 12) collectively swam 140 miles over one weekend, each swimming 10 miles.

Peter Nield, Swimming Coach, was delighted with the result and said: "The 100 Mile Swim has been a great success and the swimmers should be very proud of their achievement."



Swimming stars, Alex and Evie

King's High Gives to Haiti

King's High's catering team threw its energy and expertise into contributing to fundraising events for the UNICEF Haiti appeal. They organised a cup-cake raffle, heart biscuits for Haiti and a raffle for staff. The appeal week began with a moving assembly by Year 10, included a tombola with prizes donated by the girls, and ended with a 'civvies' day.

So far: £1,500 raised and counting.



Every little helps

Accolade for Hannah's long service to the community

Year 11 pupil, Hannah Fitzpatrick, was recently presented with a "V50" certificate at the charity-run cafe within the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, marking 50 hours of voluntary work that she completed during the summer holidays. Hannah initially volunteered for the Women's Royal Voluntary Service (WRVS) early last year, as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, and was keen to carry on. By giving up her time during the summer holidays, Hannah managed to complete 50 hours and she is aiming for her 100 hour certificate. Furthermore, Hannah has been invited by the WRVS to join a newly-established Youth Action Team and has become a Youth Volunteering Ambassador. She is the youngest member of this team and will help to assess ways in which the WRVS can promote and attract youth volunteering.



What me? a smile says it all – Hannah's amazing commitment to voluntary service.

Constellation: a very special 'girl band'

Hattie Shearman, Mary Montgomery, Sophie Samuda, Victoria Meteyard, Lucy Harries and Claudia Breakwell have brought great pleasure to patients at the Shakespeare Hospice, Canning Court (a specialised care home for dementia sufferers) and the Helen Ley Respite Home for MS sufferers. Their beautiful voices have been heard in mini concerts, carol services and on hospital radio in Redditch. Recently they all sang at The Royal Leamington Spa Rehabilitation Hospital, where they received some amazing feedback. Many of the patients have suffered terrible head injuries and are not able to communicate in conventional ways. After their performance the girls spoke to several patients and their visitors. Subsequently, they recorded their songs with BBC Coventry and Warwickshire Today.



Being recorded for the BBC

Abby Simkin, MYP

Abby is now one of the region's four MYPs (Members of the Youth Parliament). Not only did she win a massive number of votes from King's High girls, but also from other schools owing to her canvassing efforts, along with much support from within the youth centre community and her home town of Kenilworth. The elections were at the end of February, generating an enormous amount of interest, with nearly 40 candidates receiving close to 15,000 votes from secondary school children in the immediate region. Due to her involvement in Radio Abbey, Kenilworth's Youth Centre internet-based radio station, Abby was asked to stand for this election by a local councillor and the youth centre manager.



Abby Simkin

Film

'Curiouser and curiouser'



When you go to see *Alice in Wonderland* at a cinema near you, you will see Mairi Ella Challen (Year 7) in the title role

At the premiere

as young Alice. Mairi was thrilled to walk on the green carpet at the London premiere last week and she'll be going with her friends when it opens locally. It was amazing for her to see the film on the big screen for the first time. The press spoke to Mairi Ella, and among her comments was a reflection that 'the whirlwind of filming with the likes of Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter and Alan Rickman seems something of a dream now.'

On going to California, Mairi Ella said: "I had never done anything like this before and didn't know what to expect. I had my own trailer and stayed in a hotel. You dream of meeting these people and it was really, really exciting. They were all very nice and normal. It was magical and amazing, but I was quite pleased when we got back and I could speak to my friends again."



Mairi Ella, our budding film star

This is a huge achievement and exciting for all the King's community, who congratulate Mairi Ella.

Young Directors Festival

For the second year running, the Young Directors Festival gave students the opportunity to learn all aspects of putting on a production, from directing to lighting and marketing. Held at the Bridge House Theatre for a week, pupils from King's High, Warwick School, Myton and Kingsley participated in this valuable learning experience with the help of a mentor to guide them through the various stages. King's High girls performed an A2 examination production which they wrote and directed themselves called *The Jury*. Other productions included *The Blood Wedding* and *Fragile*. Supporting the Festival is the Youth Directors Workshop, held every Thursday, at which pupils learn the skills behind the scenes. Perhaps they'll follow in Rebecca Kane's footsteps to the Edinburgh Fringe.

European Trips

Cultural Visit to Madrid 2010: warmth, generosity, discovery

Our first Sixth Form cultural visit to Madrid was a great success. Ten Year 12 girls took part in the trip which included visits to the Prado and Reina Sofia art galleries, a visit to the Museo de América and a visit to the theatre to watch a 17th century Spanish play. They spent a day in Segovia where the girls fell in love with the 12th century Alcázar and its stunning location. The hotel was conveniently situated in the heart of Madrid's cultural quarter with a wealth of cafés and restaurants close by. They warmed up from the cold over 'chocolate con churros' and relaxed in the evenings over 'tapas'. The girls displayed enormous enthusiasm for everything and were keen to put their Spanish to use, discovering they knew much more than they realised. Everyone loved the warmth and generosity encountered amongst the Spanish people and left Spain eager to return.



Out and about in Madrid

Autumn Half Term in Berlin

Eight Year 11 pupils visited Berlin as part of a four-day project trip. Sightseeing included: The 'Sony Centre' and 'Potsdamer Platz'; The Brandenburg Gate and Reichstag; and there was also time to visit the famous KaDeWe and the 'Hackesche Höfe', Alexanderplatz and 'East Side Gallery' in central Berlin. The girls also enjoyed 'The Story of Berlin': an interactive exhibition of Berlin's history. There was, of course, time to sample local food at 'Mutter Hoppe' in central Berlin to round off a very successful cultural experience.



Taking a break with Frau Hedley in Berlin

French Exchange: au revoir!

What a warm welcome awaited twenty five girls from King's High and eighteen boys from KES who visited our exchange school in Tarbes from 5-12 February 2010. 'Challenging but rewarding' was the pronouncement on speaking French for this length of time, but it was helped along by great visits to Toulouse, Pau and a typical French market. The highlight was perhaps the trip to the Pic du Midi on Tuesday followed by a two-hour "raquette" tour. On Wednesday, the girls took part in lessons at the school and had their eyes opened to the differences between the French education system and the English one. The girls made firm friends with their exchange partners and we look forward to the return visit.



King's High in Europe: the all-action French exchange (spot Madame Quinney)

Sport

Hockey



Hockey in action

For the first time, the U14 Hockey team took part in the National Hockey Finals, an extremely prestigious event with only ten teams in the whole country qualifying for this level. An overall finish of joint 5th place in the country is an amazing achievement for the girls and of which we should all be very proud.



Melanie Wilkinson

Congratulations to Melanie Wilkinson who has been selected to play for the England U16 Hockey team in Holland at Easter in the four Nations Hockey tournament.

Netball



Winning U15 Netball team

U15 Netball Champions played Higham Lane in the final. At the end of normal time the score was a nail-biting 6-6. King's High went on to win 10-8 after extra time. They played really well and showed great composure under pressure.

Cross country



Cara Williams

Over 50 girls competed in the 2,800m county cross country course. The junior team were second overall and Cara Williams ran impressively to gain third place in the whole of Warwickshire. From this performance she has been selected to run in the English Schools Cross Country Championships in Manchester on 20 March.

Collaboration

Tackling the new A2: Business studies



Helen Coupland Smith

Researching the recession forms a vital component of the new Business Studies A2 examination. A lively training session with the senior examiner for Business Studies with AQA, Helen Coupland Smith, provided pupils from King's High, Myton and Warwick School with tips on

how to approach the research and how to get the best out of examination questions on both the Recession and Environment and Managing Change. Staff were not let off lightly: teachers from all three schools undertook a three hour training session too. So watch out June exams – here we come!



King's and Warwick students at the training session

Important Dates for your Diary:

20 April	Term Begins
4 May	Summer Term Concert
15 May	PTA May Ball
17 May–22 June	AS Examination Period
18 May–23 June	GCSE Examination Period
31 May (Bank Holiday) – 4 June inclusive	Half Term
9–30 June	A2 Examination Period
23 June	Year 12 Parents Evening
24, 25 and 26 June	Annie (Junior Production) at the Bridge House Theatre
29 June	Field Day
8 July	Speech Day
9 July	End of Term (12.15pm)