

# king's high news

Autumn 2011



[www.kingshighwarwick.co.uk](http://www.kingshighwarwick.co.uk)

# Letter from Headmistress

The highlight of the end of our last school year was undoubtedly Professor Germaine Greer's appearance at Speech Day. The highlight of the start of this new one is undoubtedly our new Dining Room. The old one, albeit much loved, has been transformed by the addition of a mezzanine and an extension into a light, contemporary, ultra cool space which everyone says feels and looks much more like a restaurant than a school canteen.



Speech Day



Our new Dining Room

The food too has been transformed thanks to Carlo Lubrano, our new executive chef. These are not school dinners as most of us knew them. In the first days of term the lunch queue moved at a snail's pace due to the girls' desire to contemplate all the delicious dishes on offer before making a choice. In short, everyone agrees the new room is a splendid enhancement of our facilities and we look forward to welcoming Miss Prue Leith on 10 November to perform the official opening ceremony.



Executive chef, Carlo Lubrano

We have a record 662 girls in school this year and another pleasure has, of course, been to welcome the 102 new Year 7s from 38 different schools and to greet their parents at the PTA's annual welcome party. We also welcomed 11 new girls to other years and 9 new members of staff: Miss Evans (Geography); Miss Kneeland (Science); Miss Marvin (English); Miss Wareing (English); Mrs Herbert (Clarinet); Mrs Jefferies (Piano); Miss Barlow (Martial Arts); Mr Chapman (Fencing) and Miss Ollerearnshaw (Contemporary Dance).



New Year 7 girls have fun at the Field

In the first assembly of term we all carefully checked our new style skirts were correctly on our knees then reflected on the aims of the school and congratulated our senior girls on their examination success and, in their absence, last year's Upper Sixth on both their results and their university entrance. We enjoyed seeing pictures of our results days, our holiday trips to India and Germany, our Duke of Edinburgh Gold expedition (a record 26 girls and 1 Warwick School boy) and the weddings of three members of staff, Miss Briggs, Miss McFarlane and Miss Montiel, who all tied the knot over the summer.



Gold expedition

As I write we have just celebrated Harvest on a hotter day than any of us can recall this summer with an assembly address from our Honorary Chaplain, Peter Burns, in our hall, beautifully decorated with all the girls' gifts of produce and flowers.

The year ahead has got off to a great start and promises to be yet another to aspire, achieve and enjoy!

*Elizabeth Surber*



Mrs Surber addressing the new Year 7 girls



Sixth Form visit to India



German Exchange visit

## Forthcoming Events

Year 10 Parents' Evening	2 November, 7.00pm
Open Morning	5 November, 9.30am – 12noon
Trojan Women, Bridge House Theatre	18 and 19 November, 7.00pm
Year 8 Parents' Evening	22 November, 7.00pm
Christmas Concert	6 and 7 December, 7.30pm
AmnesTea (Amnesty International Group Fundraising Tea)	8 December, 3.45 – 5.00pm
Christmas Carol Service (for Year 13 parents)	15 December, 11.00am
End of Term	15 December, 12.15pm
Entrance Examinations: Year 7 and Sixth Form Scholarships	21 January, 2012

## Autumn term

### Welcome to our new girls!

This academic year we welcomed over one hundred new girls into Years 7, 8, 9 and 12. Starting a new school can be a daunting experience so the first few weeks of term were filled with special events to ensure the transition between schools was easier for everyone. Our annual Mothers and Daughters' meeting, where Sixth Formers are given a new Year 7 to look after, was a huge success despite the inclement weather. This year, during their first week of school, the Year 7s enjoyed an afternoon of team-building games at the Field as the annual "Bonding Weekend" unfortunately had to be postponed until next June.



Mothers and daughters

### A new dining room

We also opened the doors at the start of term to our magnificent new dining room, marking the completion of the final phase of our major Capital Development Plan. The old dining space has been completely transformed into a new, light, airy, bistro-style room with stylish furniture, a state-of-the-art kitchen and an impressive mezzanine. It is not only the dining room itself which has been transformed – the food also has a new Mediterranean feel to it thanks to the arrival of our new executive chef, Mr Carlo Lubrano. All in all, girls and staff alike cannot wait for the lunch bell to ring each day!



Mezzanine dining

### Welcome events for prospective pupils



Taster Morning

Two events have already taken place to welcome prospective pupils into our community: Year 6 girls from surrounding schools enjoyed a morning of fun at the end of September when they visited us for some "taster" lessons. Activities ranged from making key rings in DT to ordering food in Spanish and making poetry pyramids in English.

The Sixth Form Open Evening on 12 October gave Year 11 girls and their families from King's and elsewhere the chance to meet current Sixth Formers and staff and learn about the opportunities on offer.

### Harvest festival and Macmillan coffee morning

In the last week of September girls brought their harvest gifts into school creating a splendid display entirely covering the assembly hall stage. This was a most generous gesture from our girls' families that will certainly help the homeless in our local community this winter. The Harvest Assembly, led by our Honorary Chaplain, Peter Burns, was held on Friday 30 September and followed by the Macmillan coffee morning. Despite our "Indian Summer" weather, the event was well supported by all with a generous £680 raised for the Macmillan Cancer Charity.



Harvest festival

## Sporting success

Congratulations to:

**Emma Hutchinson (Year 11), Olivia Carter (Year 10) and Megan Clarke (Year 11)** who have all been selected to join the British Water Polo squads and attend the England Talent Training Camps at the Cardiff International Pool. Olivia is the youngest player to be invited into one of the squads as she has just turned 14.

**Emma Loveridge (Year 9)** who has been selected for the sailing RYA 29er National Youth Squad with her brother Rob (a pupil at Warwick School).

**Jane Wackett (Year 11) and Melanie Wilkinson (Year 13)** who have both been selected to represent Mercia Lynx Region Hockey at U17 and U18 Level in October half term – a tremendous achievement.

**U19 Netball team** who were crowned County Champions (for the first time in 11 years) at the U19 Warwickshire County Netball Tournament held on Wednesday 21 September. They will now go on to represent Greater Warwickshire in the next round of the National qualifying competition at the end of November.

**U12 Netball team** who won the Loughborough Netball Tournament and the **U13 Netball team** who came 3rd.



U12 Netball Team



British Water Polo girls

### Summer travels

#### Beth Irving, Year 12



Beth and fellow colleagues pre-concert

Beth's two-week tour of East Asia this summer with the National Youth Wind Ensemble of Great Britain was without doubt a great experience.

She was selected to play 1st Clarinet and performed in four concerts at various locations in Asia including the National Tsing Hua University and the prestigious WASBE (World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensembles) conference. Despite her busy schedule, Beth managed to squeeze in some sight-seeing and celebrated her 16th birthday performing at Hong Kong University.

#### Laura Burnett and Jane Dalton, Year 13

Rather than heading for the beach this summer, our new Head Girl, Laura, and fellow pupil, Jane, opted for a World Challenge expedition in Peru. Trekking in the Andes, working in the jungle, exploring an Inca village and fishing for piranhas were just some of the amazing experiences during their month away. They both found their Spanish speaking skills invaluable as no-one else in their group could talk with the locals!



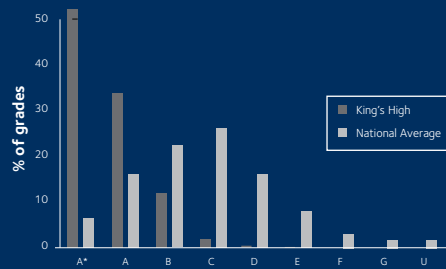
Laura and Jane visit Machu Picchu

# Our performance

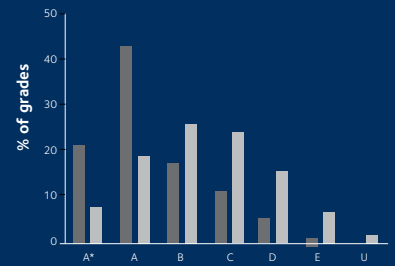
## Our results

We have had another great year at King's High achieving 97% A\*-B grades at GCSE level and 82% A\*-B grades at A level. Locally, we are top of the league in Warwickshire again. Compared to the national average King's High also performed well.

GCSE Results (Year 11) 2011



A Level Results (Year 13) 2011



## Our performance

We are often asked by parents and prospective parents how our results are achieved.

We evaluate our own performance by the value we add to your daughter's education.

### How does it work?



We do this based on comparing results at three stages in your daughter's education. This is demonstrated in the table opposite.

The results of a test (Midyis test) taken in Year 7 (1) are used to project an expectation of GCSE grades. This uses national data, which examines how similar girls have performed across the country in the past, to give an expectation of how King's girls should perform. This expectation can then be compared to actual GCSE results (2).

Similarly another comparison is made from our GCSE results (2) using average national data to project an expectation of A levels for King's girls. This expectation can then be compared with actual A2 results (3).

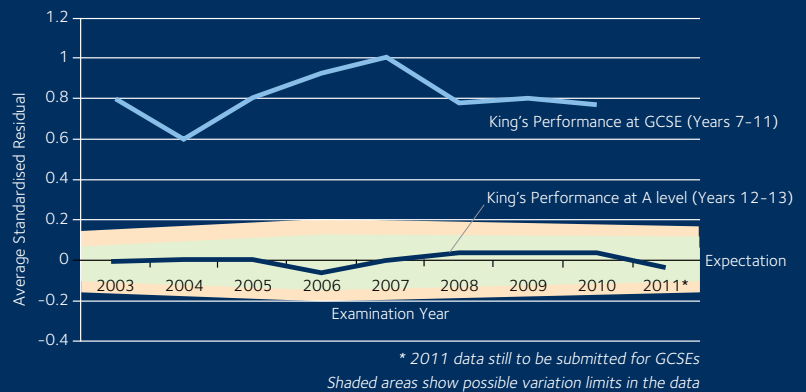
These comparisons are called "value added" – the level that our girls actually achieve compared with students of the same ability across the country.

### How does King's High perform?

The graph shows the value of quality teaching in the early years of secondary education. The performance of our girls at GCSE level significantly exceeds the expectations set – shown by the light blue line.

The dark blue line demonstrates that this high level of performance is maintained through the Sixth Form. With such high achievement at GCSE, girls are very capable of achieving top grades at A level – and the vast majority do. As a result these great A level results are "as expected" – the performance line closely following the expectation. You may ask, why does the line follow the expectation unlike the GCSE graph? This is because the girls have already performed at the highest level set by the GCSE examination system, and we are able to maintain that high level throughout their Sixth Form.

### Performance



With the advent of the new A\* grade in 2010, for the first time girls now have an additional grade to achieve. In 2011 21% of our grades were at this top A\* level. This could be why a staggering 96% of 2011 leavers who applied to University for this year are now undergraduates at their first choice university.

## The future

At King's High we never rest on our laurels. Every year our Heads of Department review their results and identify where they can make improvements both to their teaching and to the personal development of the girls they teach.

We hope this demonstrates the contribution of an education at King's High to the prospects of all the girls who come here.

For more information contact:

Stephen Bethel

Deputy Head (Academic)

E: enquiries@kingshighwarwick.co.uk