

KING'S HIGH NEWS

SPRING 2023

OLD GIRL INSPIRATION

MAGICAL MISCHIEF

ART, SPORT, DRAMA,
MUSIC AND MORE



Contents

- 03 Head Master's Introduction
- 04 King's Inspires
- 07 British Science Week
- 08 King's Masterchef
- 11 Magical Mischief
- 14 King's Music
- 18 King's Art
- 22 King's Sport
- 24 King's Drama
- 30 A Word From The Principal
- 31 Foundation Community
- 32 Landor Association

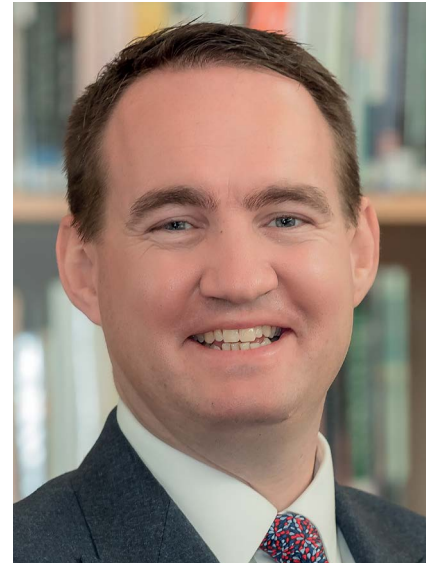


The Book Sculpture cover design by Seren

HEAD MASTER'S INTRODUCTION

It has been a busy and exciting Spring Term and our King's High News always provides a lovely opportunity to reflect on the incredible work across our community. It is a great source of pride to consider the achievements and successes of our students as they work hard and progress through the academic year.

As I write at the end of such a busy term, I am struck by the breadth and depth of exceptional endeavour. Today alone we have welcomed back Commander Jenna Kelway of the Royal Navy, a former student of our school who led the annual review of the Combined Cadet Force. We hosted a huge community netball tournament that saw over two hundred pupils from local primary schools visit us to take part. We also followed our House meetings this morning with a hilarious egg-and-spoon race on our Quad at breaktime, which saw students and staff do their best for their houses. As I write, we are hosting our Street Dance Evening with pupils from Myton and Aylesford Schools and, in a moment, I am heading to our Badminton Academy to welcome England internationals, Greg Mairs and Jenny Moore, who are running a workshop.



It has been particularly pleasing this term to see so many girls involved in and enjoying sport. We have huge numbers attending our open practices in hockey and netball, whilst our football programme is going from strength to strength. I was delighted that our new U16 rugby team competed in their first competitive fixtures in a tournament at Roslyn Park – one for the King's High history books and a very exciting start for our developing girls' rugby programme.

There has been huge success across a range of sports from our U18 netball team winning the ISA National Competition to our U15 hockey team being crowned county champions and our U13 hockey team becoming regional champions to make it through to the national finals. There have also been some very notable successes in fencing, clay pigeon shooting, badminton, table tennis, cross-country, tennis, skiing and equestrian.

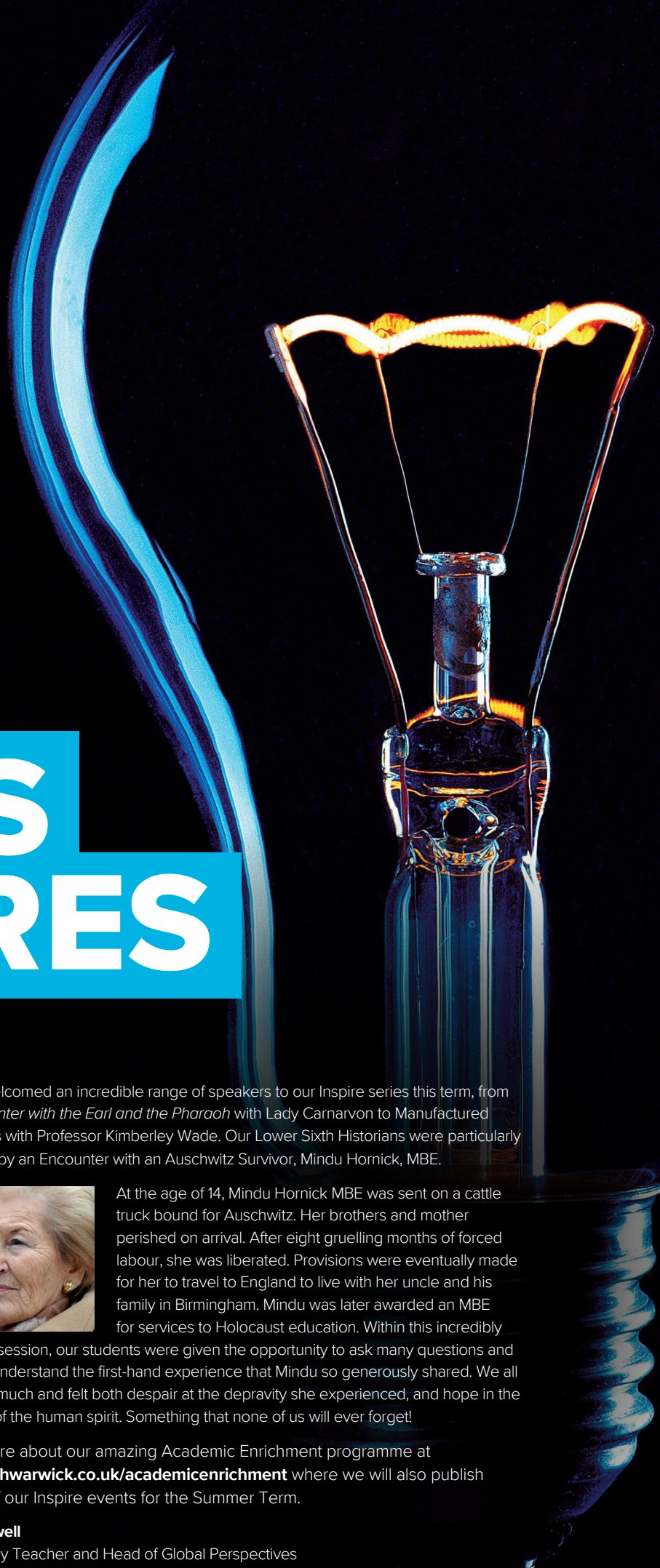
We have celebrated World Book Day, British Science Week, International Women's Day and Holocaust Memorial Day, to name but a few. Our Careers and Higher Education Fair was a real highlight with over 130 employers, UK and global universities, and apprenticeship providers represented and huge numbers across King's High and Warwick School enjoying the opportunity to talk to and hear from experts.

I was delighted to welcome actress Gemma Whelan back to King's High for a fascinating Landor Association Lecture in which she spoke with humour and candour about her life and career in acting. British bobsleigh athlete and trainee doctor, Felicity Bee, was the inspiring guest of honour at our Annual Old Girls' Association Lunch earlier in the term.

The performing arts are thriving and this term Year 7s took part in the 'Play in a Day' project, whilst the Middle School Production, Chaos, showcased skill, energy and imagination. LAMDA Evening was very special with remarkable performances across a range of genres. In Music, we hosted our inaugural Foundation Chamber Concert, with our annual Jazz, Rock and Pop Evening wowing the audience in the Bridge House Theatre. Our King's High and Warwick Prep School Dance Show in Warwick Hall was stunning with incredible energy, character and technique.

I hope that you enjoy reading about our Spring Term at King's High and I wish you a very happy Easter.

Dr Stephen Burley
Head Master



KING'S INSPIRES

Now into our sixth year, our Inspire Programme for academic enrichment focuses on three key components: cultivating creativity, independent thinking, and curiosity about the world.

We've welcomed an incredible range of speakers to our Inspire series this term, from an *Encounter with the Earl and the Pharaoh* with Lady Carnarvon to *Manufactured Memories* with Professor Kimberley Wade. Our Lower Sixth Historians were particularly humbled by an *Encounter with an Auschwitz Survivor*, Mindu Hornick, MBE.



At the age of 14, Mindu Hornick MBE was sent on a cattle truck bound for Auschwitz. Her brothers and mother perished on arrival. After eight gruelling months of forced labour, she was liberated. Provisions were eventually made for her to travel to England to live with her uncle and his family in Birmingham. Mindu was later awarded an MBE for services to Holocaust education. Within this incredibly

powerful session, our students were given the opportunity to ask many questions and to really understand the first-hand experience that Mindu so generously shared. We all learnt so much and felt both despair at the depravity she experienced, and hope in the strength of the human spirit. Something that none of us will ever forget!

Read more about our amazing Academic Enrichment programme at kingshighwarwick.co.uk/academicenrichment where we will also publish details of our Inspire events for the Summer Term.

Anna Jewell
Philosophy Teacher and Head of Global Perspectives

ENGINEERING AND AVIATION PROGRAMME



We are so pleased to offer two exciting opportunities that form part of our Engineering and Aviation Programme. Both opportunities will be led by Mr Mark Smyth, Engineer in Residence at King's High. Mr Smyth is a qualified Aerospace Engineer and a licensed Airline Pilot with many years' experience of teaching and coaching engineers and aircrew at a professional level.

Students will be able to help with the build preparation of a vintage wooden bi-plane airframe as well as attending Engineering Masterclasses, focusing on Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering.

CELEBRATION OF GIVING

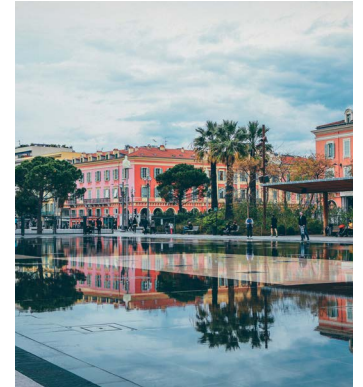
We recently shared the new strategic plan for Warwick Schools Foundation. One of the key intents is to grow a more connected community. We would therefore like to thank and recognise those who support our schools in so many ways and we're delighted to share our first 'Celebration of Giving' report. We hope to make this an annual publication to celebrate everyone who helps to make our schools such special places. View the report at kingshighwarwick.co.uk/celebrationofgiving.



RESIDENTIAL TRIPS

Our Modern Foreign Languages department have some exciting travel in store, with Linguistic trips to Nice, Costa Rica, Andalucia and the Cologne Christmas markets to soak up the culture and enhance language skills. Geography students will explore Iceland, and our Drama and Music pupils are set to experience the Big Apple with their respective trips to New York. We also have a number of Duke of Edinburgh Award Expeditions planned, as well as a host of CCF trips.

Further information on all our trips with all our fabulous departments can be found on the parent portal and at kingshighwarwick.co.uk/trips.



SIXTH FORM BOARDING

We are delighted to offer Sixth Form Boarding for girls from September this year. The newly refurbished Way House will offer a 'home from home' environment with the Foundation's outstanding facilities literally on the doorstep. Discover more on our website at kingshighwarwick.co.uk/boarding-at-kings-high.



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

A selection of our students' recent DT projects





KISSING IT BETTER CHARITY

Our students continue to work closely with the Kissing it Better charity, supporting them on a regular basis. Recently, our Friday Afternoon Art group produced some lovely artwork for display to highlight the importance of hydration in care homes and hospitals as part of Hydration Week.



HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

We marked Holocaust Memorial Day with a special assembly in Warwick Hall, led by Jane Curzon from Generation to Generation, and with a service of remembrance at Warwick War Memorial, where pupils from King's High read a poem that they composed themselves on this year's theme of Ordinary People.

THE YOUNG WALTER SCOTT PRIZE



THE YOUNG WALTER SCOTT PRIZE



We are delighted to hear that Rosie in Year 11 has been shortlisted for the Young Walter Scott Prize 2022 for historical fiction for her story, *Forever England*.

The Young Walter Scott Prize is the UK's only creative writing prize for budding historical fiction writers.

The final judges' meeting has now taken place with this year's judging panel being chaired by the writer, Elizabeth Laird, and we are eagerly awaiting the results.

Ordinary people

Ordinary people living ordinary lives,
Ordinary babies crying ordinary cries,
Ordinary children playing ordinary games,
Ordinary teens with ordinary aims.

These ordinary people lived not so ordinary lives,
Separating and destroying children, husbands and wives,
Brainwashed by governments and regimes,
Ordinary people stealing ordinary dreams.

These ordinary people lived not so ordinary lives,
Being mistreated, discriminated against no chance to thrive,
To the outside world they may all look alright,
But deep down inside they have surrendered their light.

But ordinary people can do extraordinary things,
Emancipating some; their life begins,
We remember all those affected especially today,
Here in Warwick on this Holocaust Memorial Day.

GOETHE-INSTITUT



Our Year 9 students had a wonderful trip to the Goethe-Institut in London, where they delved into the advantages of

learning German and watched *Das Wunder von Bern*, before enjoying a German meal in Stein's restaurant and completing a German-themed quiz in the Science Museum.

SEARCHING FOR SYNERGY



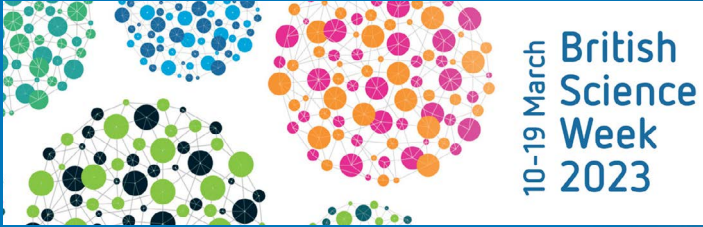
The symbiosis of Creative Thinking and Independent Learning

Currently, both creative thinking and independent learning are 'buzz words' in the world of pedagogy, concepts with which classroom practitioners are engaging with to varying degrees and with variable outcomes.

Undoubtedly, the ever-changing world around us requires teachers to continually reflect on pedagogical approaches in order to offer an adaptable and flexible educational provision that both caters to and reflects the world for which we are preparing students.

With this in mind, creative thinking and independent learning have been posited as two possible approaches for achieving this, yet they are often dealt with separately or as discrete concepts.

Read the full article by Dr Amy Galvin, Teacher of English and Head of Independent Learning, and a wide range of additional papers at kingshighwarwick.co.uk/creativethinking



BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

Our Lower Sixth Physicians were quick off the mark with their trip to the Rutherford-Appleton Laboratory ahead of British Science Week. A week, or actually 10 days, of all things Science. They took part in a Particle Physics Masterclass, before touring the world-leading ISIS Neutron and Muon Source. Our Aviation Careers event took flight, and we enjoyed science we can eat in our Gummy Bears workshop. Meanwhile, Year 8 students took part in a Daphnia and plastic pollution workshop with Dr Katie Reilly who visited us from Birmingham University. Our pupils used microscopes and UV light to view the microplastic in the Daphnia gut, helping to measure the environmental impact of microplastic pollution. The week culminated in our Science Fair where topics included 'Does sound affect the taste of food?'.



KING'S MASTERCHEF



Christophe Charpentier has been the Head Chef at King's High since 2016. With over 30 years' experience

in professional kitchens around the world, Christophe has experienced everything from private dining in manor houses to running his own wine bar & restaurant, which was in the Independent's top 50 best restaurants.

Instrumental to creating the outstanding food at King's with his incredible team, we asked Christophe about his inspirations and achievements:

Who or what inspired you to be become a chef?

My love for food really started at a very early age, eating out with my family in restaurants, it sparked my curiosity as to how food is created and presented.

What has been your biggest achievement since becoming a chef?

Being a chef at King's High, has given me enormous pride and I love every minute of it. I particularly like preparing foods for parents when they come to events at the school.

If you had to encourage someone to become a chef, what would you say to them?

You need to love cooking with a passion. Be prepared for late nights, working every weekend, and of course the high level of stress, but the rewards are amazing.

What five words best describe you?

Hard-working, perfectionist, team-worker, dedicated and organised.



Our award-winning Catering team have once again pulled out all the stops to make our Spring Term thoroughly delectable.

We marked Greek Language Day with wonderful Greek-inspired fayre, in conjunction with our fabulous MFL department. On Valentine's Day, we were treated to a gorgeous selection of desserts, including heart-shaped doughnuts, ruby red fruit jellies and our famous King's shortbread with a bejewelled centre. And on St Patrick's Day, we celebrated in style with shamrock adorned cupcakes. As delicious as they looked! Old Girl, Dr Felicity Bee, joined us for the OGA Annual Lunch and the team created a menu fit for our very own GB Bobsleigh athlete.

For a Foodie fix, read our Catering blog at kingshighwarwick.co.uk/cateringblog.



OGA Annual Lunch



Valentine's Day



St Patrick's Day

FRENCH CUISINE

Head Chef, Christophe Charpentier, demonstrated his passion for French cuisine to our lucky GCSE and A Level students studying Food and Languages. On the menu was Souffle au Chocolat and Creme Anglaise and, needless to say, it was magnifique!



KING'S TEA

It was a delight to welcome our golden ticket offer holders for the King's Tea. A quintessentially British cream tea was in order, and we look forward to our new students joining the King's family in September.





King's High School

Junior Creative Writing Spring Anthology: Trees

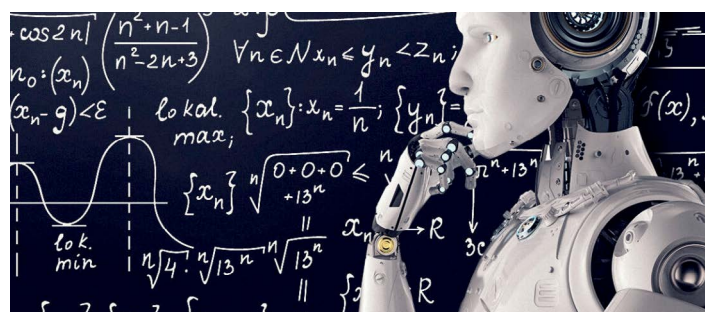
CAREERS

The King's High and Warwick School Higher Education and Careers Fair was a huge success. Aimed at pupils from Year 10 upwards, there were over 130 exhibitors including universities, an A-Z careers zone, careers advisors, information on apprenticeships, studying abroad, and taster courses.



CHATGPT

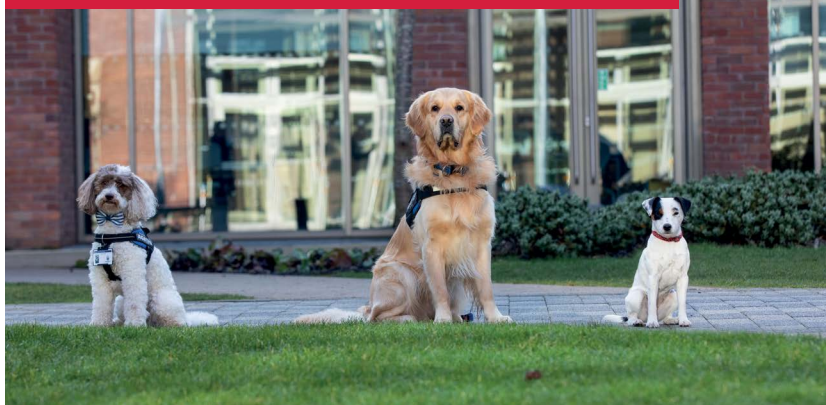
There's been a wide range of responses to Open AI's chatbot, ChatGPT, from fear of its capacity to support plagiarism, to excitement about its ability to transform teaching and learning. A paradigm shift in education? Read our Foundation Director of Digitally Enabled Learning's take on it at kingshighwarwick.co.uk/latestnews.



SPRING ANTHOLOGY

Our Junior Creative Writing Club has been working exceptionally hard on a *Trees*-themed Spring Anthology. Read our junior writers' wonderful collection, available to view at kingshighwarwick.co.uk/latestnews.

CANINE COMPANIONS



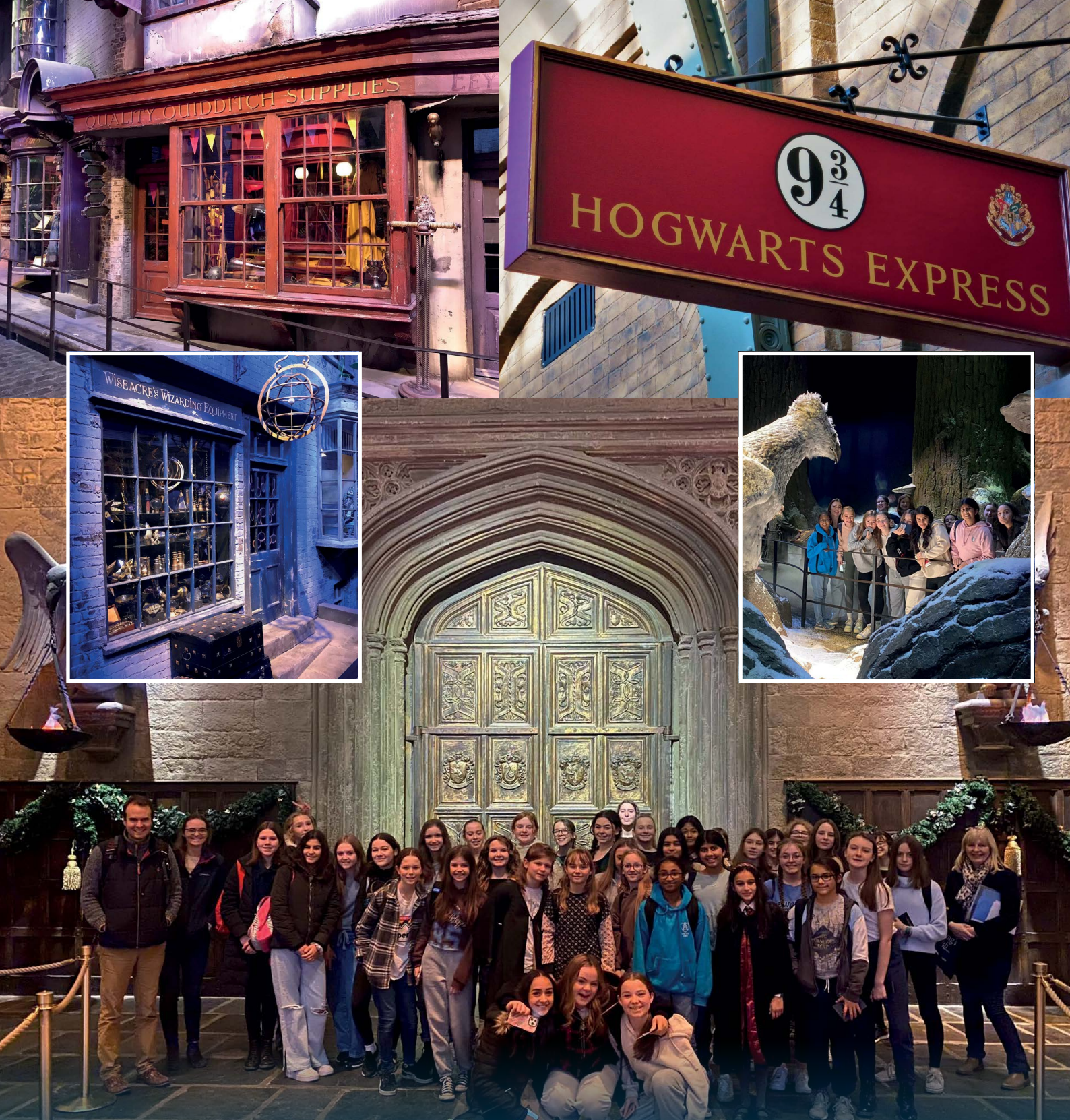
Our school dog, Parsnip, has become a well-known and loved face around King's, and regularly brings smiles to the faces of pupils and staff alike. She is joined here in our Quad by Aggie and Ollie, Warwick School and Warwick Prep's canine companions. Read more about our pastoral programme and wellbeing on our website.

CHANGEMAKER AWARD



In September we launched our new Changemaker Award to inspire our students to make a positive difference in the lives of others. We now have around 150 pupils working towards the award, demonstrating their character, commitment and community spirit.

Our Global Changemaker Programme is an accredited, two-year KS4 course with modules in social justice, climate change, global perspectives and international law. In September, 28 Y10s started the course and, this September, 53 Year 10 students will start the course. Very exciting!



MAGICAL MISCHIEF

'I solemnly declare that I am up to no good.'

Our Year 8 students swapped King's High for Hogwart's School of Witchcraft and Wizardry at the Warner Bros. Studio Tour London. So popular was this particular Inspire trip that we will be hopping on our Firebolts to experience the magic with more year groups. The feedback was incredible, with many pupils citing it was the 'best day ever!' It was a truly fascinating insight into the making of Harry Potter, complete with exclusive behind-the-scenes access. From special effects to technical drawings and scale models, our pupils fully immersed themselves in the magic of the wizarding world.

WORLD BOOK DAY

From Hermione to Hagrid, three little pigs and the Naughtiest Girl to Famous Five protagonists, we saw a wonderful array of costumes depicting favourite literary characters.

The celebrations went down the rabbit hole in the library where our English department hosted an Alice in Wonderland tea party. Curiouser and curiouser!



THE BIG LEGAL LESSON

The Big Legal Lesson took place at King's High, with our Changemakers of the future learning more about the legal justice system and how it affects their lives, as part of the Young Citizens UK initiative.

COMPUTING CHALLENGE

It was fantastic to see our students competing in the Oxford University Computing Challenge in January, which invited those who have achieved a top 10% score in the UK Bebras Challenge to further develop their skills and produce programmed solutions to computational thinking problems.

NATIONAL STORYTELLING WEEK

As part of National Storytelling Week, King's High students showcased their writing (including Ana's self-published novel, The Coven) and made bookmarks in the library, in conjunction with our English department.



INDIA FUNDRAISING DINNER

Join us for our India Fundraising Dinner on Friday 28 April in the King's High Hall.

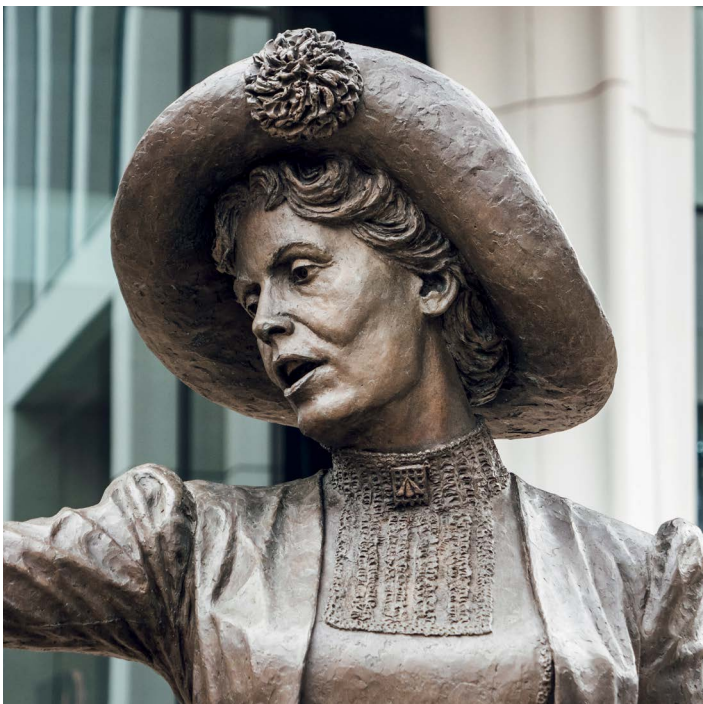
For the past 12 years, King's Sixth Formers have been visiting India to not only experience incredible sites, such as the Taj Mahal and the Jaipur Forts in the Golden Triangle, but to undertake an amazing week of voluntary work. This year, Lower Sixth will travel to the golden Triangle and the Silent Valley in the foothills of the Himalayas, working with the community in supporting their projects.

Please email ja.chima@kingshighwarwick.co.uk to book your tickets by Monday 17 April.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

'Here's to strong women: May we know them. May we be them. May we raise them.'

We marked International Women's Day with an excellent assembly from our student Universal Justice Group, celebrating achievements and raising awareness of injustices and discrimination.



WELLBEING BLOG

Bursting with helpful advice and tips towards improved wellbeing, our weekly Wellbeing Blog covers a range of topics, from feeling fear and finding courage to unlocking the power of reading. Available at kingshighwarwick.co.uk/wellbeingblog.



FORMULA 24

As part of our Engines and Aviation project, we have been working on an exciting challenge: to design, build and race a Formula 24 electric car.

We are working alongside Greenpower Education Trust, whose IET Formula 24 Challenge inspires young people aged 11-16 to get involved in STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.

Since April 2022, a team of five pupils at King's High has been busy building our Formula 24 car, including designing and forming body panels, ready for its test run!

- The Formula 24 competition starts in April with a series of races at official BMR racing circuits all over the UK.
- There are currently 9 races in the Greenpower Formula 24 calendar with the season finale at Goodwood in October.
- Each race is over 90 minutes with 3 drivers.
- The top speed achieved at Goodwood in 2022 was 49.5 miles an hour.

KING'S MUSIC



It has been another action-packed term for Music at King's High. From large concerts to trips and recitals, we are hugely proud of the musical achievements of all our students.

We have seen some stunning and varied concerts. The inaugural Foundation Chamber Music Concert was a great success, featuring a variety of ensembles from King's High and Warwick school. We also had the incredible Jazz, Rock and Pop concert at the Bridge House Theatre – more on this from Mr Lindsay! There have been two spectacular Horizons concerts, including the Singing concert in January, featuring a range of musical theatre, classical, folk and pop repertoire, and the Woodwind & Brass concert.

This term played host to the Young Musician of the Year competitions. In total, over 80 students auditioned for the two competitions – even shortlisting for the final was an incredibly difficult task! Huge congratulations to Charlotte (Year 7 – Recorder) and Annabel (Year 12 – Voice) who won the Junior and Senior competitions respectively. Well done to all who have entered for an ABRSM or Trinity music exam this term and thank you to the team of music teachers who have prepared students for these exams.

There have also been some great opportunities to broaden and stretch musical horizons this term. February saw the first in a new series of *Who Do You Think They Are?* lectures looking at the lives and legacies of composers, with the first session exploring the music of Bela Bartok. We were also very fortunate to be visited by Leanne O'Keeffe, lecturer at the University of Birmingham, who spoke to us about her work as a music therapist in the latest Inspire Music series talk.

Year 7 took a coach trip to Symphony Hall in Birmingham to see the Key Stage 3 *This World* concert. The concert presented a journey around the world, featuring music from new and young composers, as well as well-known composers such as Elgar and Brahms.

The Orchestra of the Swan gave a concert in January featuring baritone Roderick Williams which was attended by many of our students. Roderick gave an engaging pre-concert talk discussing one of the pieces, his own composition. We were also treated to a performance of Elgar's *Enigma Variations*. March saw several



exciting opportunities to play with the orchestra: the Come and Play day saw the whole of Year 7 from King's High and Warwick school learning Strauss' *Blue Danube* led by the orchestra themselves, followed by a 'side-by-side' performance where students from the Foundation Symphony Orchestra performed this piece with the orchestra in their public concert in Warwick Hall. This was a fantastic evening and a wonderful opportunity for the students.

Looking ahead to next term, we very much look forward to the Summer Concert on 4 May featuring ensembles from across the school and our Year 13 Leavers' Concert on 11 May. The latter will be a bittersweet evening; we will be sad to say goodbye to our Sixth Form musicians but this promises to be a joyous evening of music making!

Wishing you all the best for the Easter break.

Adam Albrighton
Director of Music





It was the second week of the new school year in 2016, when the door to my teaching room opened and there stood one of my drumming students from Warwick Prep, Millie, with two friends. Millie's subsequent question heralded the start of something very special, and never before seen at the school. "Mr Jones, this is Alisha and Charlotte, and we wondered if you would help us form a band please?".... and so MAC3, as they were originally named, was born.

In those early days, Millie was on the drums, Alisha played the flute, and Charlotte was on the keyboard and lead vocals. Immediately the girls were very interested in writing their own songs and playing their own original material, which I thought was brilliant, and transformed them into young artists, rather than solely covering existing songs.

In their first ever performance they covered Katie Perry's "Roar", complete with tiger-eared headwear! By the end of Year 7, Alisha was swapping the flute for bass guitar to meet the needs of the band and had signed up for bass lessons at school as well as buying her own guitar and amp!

The girls carried on working hard in Year 8, regularly coming to the drum room, which had an electric piano and a great space for writing and practising new material. They continued to perform at selected concerts, and at the end of that year I took the girls to a professional recording studio to record four of their own compositions. This was at Woodbine Studios in Leamington with legendary producer John Rivers who had produced 'Ghost Town' with The Specials, among others. In two concerts towards the end of the school year, one of their friends, the incredibly talented Caitlin, had made guest appearances with the band under the headline 'MAC3 ft Caitlin' which would transform the band completely.

So, as year 9 started, so did discussions regarding the inclusion of Caitlin as a full-time member of the band. And, by the end of September, MAC3 became MACH4. The band was now perfectly balanced with Caitlin's many musical talents being a hugely positive addition in every area of the band. The girls branched out with the use of tech, programming sounds for their song choices on a laptop and launchpad. This also meant Millie playing to a click track in headphones, which is normally the reserve of semi-pro/pro drummers!

An amazing year followed. The band's newly composed songs were now sounding of a professional standard, which became apparent at the King's Jazz, Rock and Pop concert that year, as they literally left the audience in awe. They were then also invited onto the bill for Warwick

School's Bridge House of Rock in January as a direct result of the reputation they were building.

At the end of the school year, once again I took them into the recording studio with John to record a four song EP, all with one-word titles; Alone, Fire, Deny, Rain. All of which are just brilliantly well-written songs.

Year 10 started, with no let-up in their commitment to write great songs, or their appetite to perform. In January they once again performed at the Bridge House of Rock. Around that time, I spoke with the girls and their parents with a view to sending a couple of their tracks into *BBC Introducing* to be played on the radio. This I managed to do with great success, and their song was played for two weeks in succession. The King's High Marketing team were then quick to upload their fantastic achievement onto all our social media platforms.

Then unfortunately, a month or so later, Covid 19 hit the nation, and everything halted for the remainder of that year. Alisha sadly left in Year 11, but the band continued to rehearse and write songs, despite being unable to perform that year with ongoing restrictions, or in Year 12 due to commitments.

As we arrive now, in their final year at King's High, it's filled with so many emotions for me and a sense of disbelief that this incredibly special group of girls will be leaving shortly. They have achieved so much in their time here, and it has been an absolute privilege to have worked with, and supported them, along their journey. It is fair to say they have been an integral part of my last seven years at King's.

I was overjoyed when they decided they would play at this year's Jazz, Rock and Pop concert, which would be their last. Very kindly, Mr Lindsay, who organises and runs the concert, gave them the very much deserved honour of top billing and headlining the whole concert. Their performance showed why they leave such a positive legacy behind them, giving a wholly professional and polished performance, which anyone present that night will remember for a long time to come.

MACH4. King's High's inaugural pop band, the first band to write original material, and the first to be played on the radio. I can only say how proud I am and a heartfelt thank you.

Nick Jones
Music Teacher (Drums)

Follow @KHS_Music_Dept on Twitter for all the latest Music news and photos!



JAZZ, ROCK AND POP CONCERT



On Friday 10 March, an excited audience gathered for a showcase of bands and soloists performing jazz, rock and pop music at the Bridge House Theatre. This year's concert featured pupils from King's High School and, for the first time, Warwick Prep School.

A concert like no other in the school calendar, the evening featured a huge depth of variety. Jess' funky

solo saxophone was followed by two great tracks from up and coming pop band theNeWbLack. Tamira and Lucy combined beautifully on piano and vocals respectively, Bethany provided a 90s revival with her poised drumming, and singers Caitlin, Zara and Orlah wowed us with exquisite and assured songs.

The Blue Lagoon Jazz Band is newly formed this year and its Year 6 musicians showed that they belonged on stage with much older performers with their rendition of Bag's Groove. The Bluejays (featuring Years 7-9) demonstrated that the future of jazz is already in safe hands, and King's High School's Big Band took their recent successful performances to a new high with Weather Report's Birdland.

King's High School knows Hannah very well as an excellent flautist, but she showed another side to herself with an immensely powerful vocal performance of They Just Keep Moving The Line, backed by the staff band and mighty KHS Big Band horn section. In contrast, Taya captivated a silent, enchanted Bridge House Theatre audience with her wonderful original song Ten Past Two.

Bohemian Rhapsody is no easy prospect for professional musicians. It was no match for our crew of Taya, Caitlin, Hannah, Lottie, Charlotte, Laura, Jack and Ian, who combined hard work, musicianship and pure joy to produce a performance of the iconic classic that will live long in the memory.

The final word must go to the closing act, MACH4. They arrived in Year 7 as MAC3 – a three piece of piano, flute and drums – and quickly established the standard for pupil-led pop bands. Supported and championed by Mr Jones throughout, they have been consistently driven and creative, recording several songs and making it onto

BBC Introducing. The now multi-instrumental foursome headlined our concert with three songs that showed off their versatility and their completely self-assured presence on stage. Thank you to Millie, Alisha, Charlotte and Caitlin for all their efforts over the years. We will miss them.

Thank you to all who took part in this year's concert – one of my favourites ever. We are already looking forward to Jazz, Rock and Pop 2024!

Tom Lindsay

Piano Teacher and Acting Director of Music (Warwick School)



If you missed this year's Jazz, Rock and Pop Concert, you can watch the video in full and view the gallery at kingshighwarwick.co.uk/music/jazzrockpop.

KING'S ART



Art continues to be the beating of heart of creative life here at King's. We have had yet another busy term whereby all year groups have immersed themselves in a vast range of topics enabling students to engage their imagination, creative thinking and inner artists within their practical work.

Year 7 continue to develop key skills and have learnt the importance of the Formal Elements through research and practical presentation. Our students are now embarking upon their first artist investigation and inspiration comes from the work of Moore, Johns, Escher and Walker to name a few.

Year 8 are now in their second and final rotation, so printmakers are now enjoying the challenges of ceramics and vice-versa. Cultural patterns continues to be the theme, so our pupils will be able to extend their knowledge and understanding further as they learn new processes and techniques.

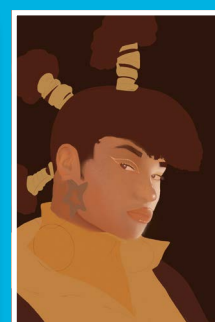
Year 9 continue to develop their creativity through expressive mark-making and use of mixed-media through their Sense of Place project.

GCSE and A Level groups are currently working hard in readiness for the upcoming 10 hour and 15 hour examinations which take place in the Summer Term. Good luck to all Year 11 and Upper Sixth Art students – you will be brilliant!

Looking ahead to the Summer Term we are finalising the plans for our annual GCSE and A Level Art Exhibition, which celebrates the work of all our girls and their wonderful artistic achievements. We are again taking part in Warwickshire Open Studios and look forward to welcoming the general public to see the work on show – dates for your diaries are Friday 30 June 4.30pm-7pm and Saturday 1 July 10am-1pm.

Sarah Jordan
Director of Art

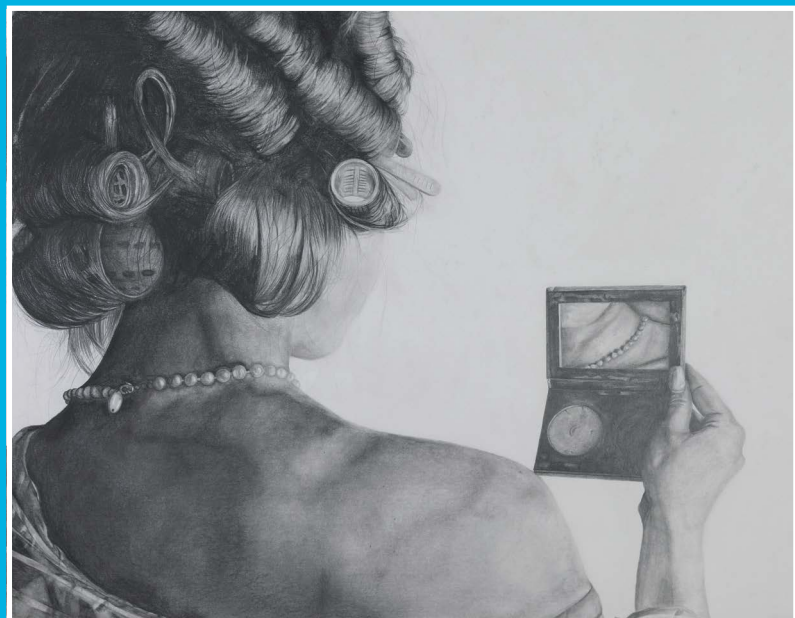
Procreate Digital Illustration Club



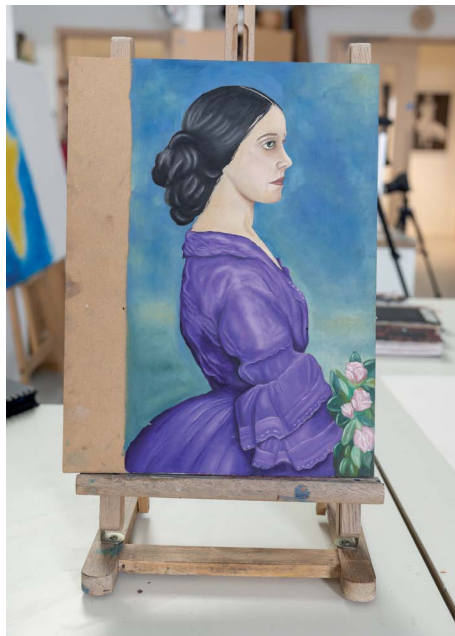
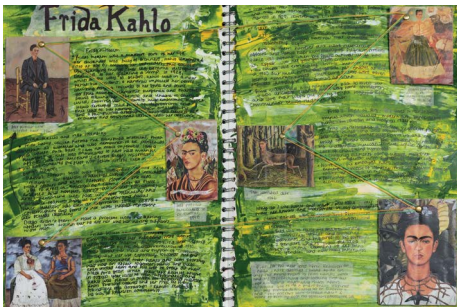
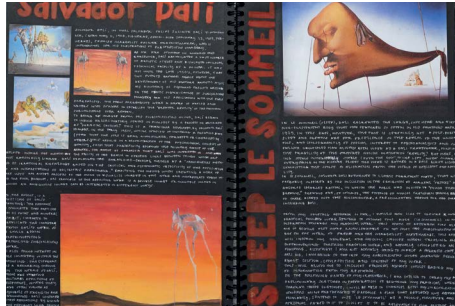
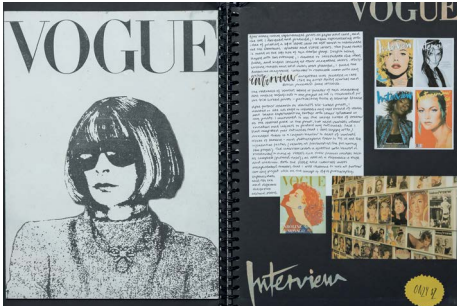
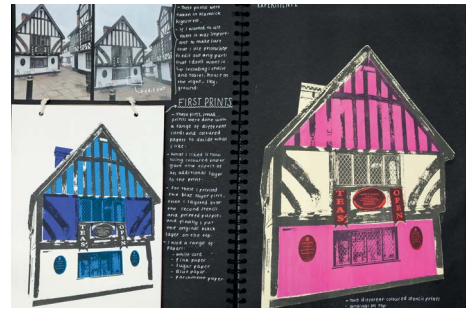
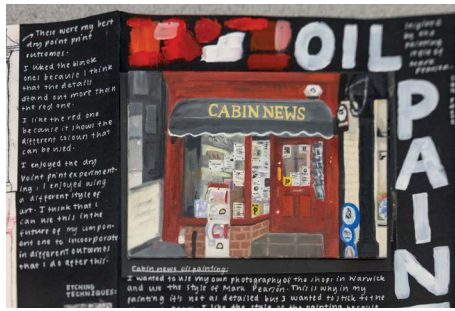
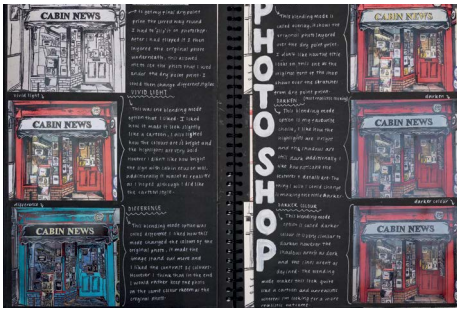
Year 8 Ceramics



Lower Sixth artwork



Celebrating the work of our Upper Sixth Students



THE BOOK SCULPTURE



Our stunning cover design, The Book Sculpture, was created by Seren in Upper Sixth. Seren explains the inspiration behind the piece and its composition.

I chose 'Charlotte's Web', which was written by E.B. White and illustrated by Garth Williams, as this book revolves around the central themes of the importance of friendship and how this drives the hope of the characters.

My artist of influence is Su Blackwell who inspires my piece with her style of art, made by transforming old books into intricate artworks that explore important themes of each book that she utilises.

This book sculpture is comprised of mount board that is covered in photocopied pages from the book itself. I took inspiration for the barn from the original illustrations of the book including the characters inside, which were a photocopy that was downsized to fit scale.

The barn was lit by a small lightbulb and surrounded by 'hay', comprised of thinly cut pages of Charlotte's Web, and this was all placed individually by hand onto an old hardback book.

GCSE and
A Level Summer
exhibition alongside
artwork from
Warwick Preparatory
School.



“Inhale
possibility,
exhale
creativity.”

Laura Jaworski

Friday 30 June 4.30pm-7pm • Saturday 1 July 10am-1pm



King's High School
Warwick Preparatory School

King's High Art Department
King's High School, Banbury Road, Warwick CV34 6YE

kingshighwarwick.co.uk

KING'S SPORT



What an incredible term of sport of every kind at King's High! We've seen some first and truly outstanding achievements over the last few weeks.

Our football teams have continued with their impressive seasons, with the U16 squad progressing to the County Semi-Final and the U14 squad awaiting their opponents in the County Final. The U13 squad were crowned Repton Festival Champions in January and all three age groups have made excellent progress in the Sisters 'n' Sport National cups. We look forward to hosting the GSA National Football Finals at King's after the Easter break.

Two years ago saw the beginnings of the ski squad at King's and it has gone from strength to strength. As a result of qualifying to race in the British School Ski Finals last term, the U16 team of Carys, Alya, Alex and Kitty took up the opportunity to train at an alpine race camp with Kandahar Racing in Bormio, Italy, joined by the U16 boys' team. These camps provide a professional training environment, allowing skiers to focus on their athletic development as well as promoting greater independence.

There were further opportunities to compete this time on the dry slopes at the Birmingham and Midlands School Ski Championships. A very close competition resulted in the overall trophy being awarded to the King's High and Warwick Prep teams, with many skiers achieving a place on the podiums. A fantastic result.

Equestrian has seen lots of success this term with success, both as individuals and teams, in affiliated and schools' competitions. Our students have been successful in a number of disciplines including Showjumping, Dressage, Eventing and Polo. There have been some great achievements, including qualifying for Championships at Hickstead in the Eventer's Challenge for the fourth year in a row!

The 70cm team, made up by, Ellie, Purdie, Lily and Mila came 1st, with Mila placing 2nd and Ellie 6th. In the 1m class, Arabella represented the school as an individual, placing 4th and qualifying for the Hickstead Championships. In showjumping, Isabella and Tillie also qualified individually for the Hickstead Championships, by coming 1st and 2nd in the Hickstead Elite 1.10m Qualifier.

There was a first for King's High when it came to Polo, with the Polo Team, consisting of Gemma, Lauren and Anna, representing the School in their first SUPA Polo Tournament with great success, coming 3rd as a

result of winning two chukkas very convincingly and losing two chukkas by very fine margins! In their first chukka against last year's champions, the team played a competitive match, losing 2-1. The team then played some of their best polo, winning both the second and third chukkas 3-0. The final chukka was a harder and more competitive match, resulting in a 3-2 loss. Overall, the team played some great polo and we're very much looking forward to the next one!

This term has been an excellent one for fencing, with the students competing and performing well in many local competitions, as well as the national qualifiers. Cherrie won the West Midlands under 16 Girls' Sabre at KES Stratford and, in the West Midlands' Foil Championships, Alice and Charlotta fenced in under 14s, finishing 6th and 8th respectively, whilst Amelie finished 3rd in under 16s.

The last qualifier event was West Midlands' Epee Championships, in which Alice and Charlotta finished 5th and 6th respectively in under 14s, and the school captain, Anne, fenced in under 18s, placing 3rd after winning the quarter-final 15-11, before losing the semi-final 15-13 in a very close match. Based on these results, all have qualified for the 2023 British Youth Championships National Age Group Finals that are being held in Sheffield over the May Day Bank Holiday weekend. It is great to see such representation of all the fencing disciplines.

The final fencing event this term saw a record number of King's High Students competing in the Public Schools Competition, which is held in London. I am delighted to report that the team came away with the Graham Langton Cup' (Most improved Girls' School).

Our gymnasts have been working hard in their squads to prepare for the ISGA 5 Piece National Challenge. The students performed superbly throughout a long and gruelling day and our U19 team travelled back to school with the award for most improved U19 team after their stunning floor routine.

The Cross Country runners have continued to impress after their successes at the ESAA Team National Finals last term. 11 King's High runners achieved selection to the ISA National Cross Country Finals with superb runs in the Midlands Finals at Bedstone. The Year 8 and 9 team finished in 1,2,3,4,5 and 8th positions. Our Minor girls' team were



crowned County Champions and the Junior team were Warwickshire runners up in their race. This term, 18 runners have competed for King's High at three different National Finals. Truly remarkable.

Netball has continued to develop with a large number of students representing the school over the term. Of particular note is the number of Year 7 pupils who have represented the school for the first time with fixtures for U12A-G teams taking place. The U13 team were crowned County Champions and the U13B team finished runners up. The U13A team were also crowned ISA Midlands' Champions and narrowly missed out at the ISA National Final title held at King's. They played superbly in a closely contested final, just missing out on the title 9-10.

The U14 team has also enjoyed success this term and having progressed through the County and Triangular rounds last term took to court at the end of January in the Regional Finals. They were outstanding on the day winning 5/6 of their group matches and earning their place in the semi-finals. The team lost to strong opposition at this stage, but we are very proud of their performance on the day. The U14 team also enjoyed great success at the ISA events being crowned Regional champions and finishing 4th at the National finals.

Our U15 netball teams have enjoyed many successes in their friendly matches, and we look forward to hearing how the B team get on in the local league finals. Congratulations to the A team who were runners up at the County tournament.

At the senior end of the school the U16 team finished a very creditable 4th place at the ISA National Finals. The U18B team performed superbly to overcome a difficult team from Calday Grammar School in the quarter final of the Sister 'n' Sport national cup and our 1st VII were absolutely superb at the ISA National Finals and justly crowned Champions.

It has been the turn of the younger years to put on some impressive displays on the hockey pitches this term. The U12 A team faced none other than the U12B team in the semi-final of the County tournament after both teams progressed through their groups. The A team just took victory and finished as runners up in the County overall. They went on to play in the Regional Finals and played some excellent hockey.

The U13 Team really have been the stars of the hockey pitch this term. Early in January they took on Bromsgrove in the quarter finals





of the ISHC National competition. After a thrilling game, they took victory through a penalty stroke competition. The team then travelled to London to play in the finals of this prestigious competition. After losing to Surbiton, the eventual National Champions, in the semi-final, the squad was excellent in the 3rd v 4th playoff of take the bronze medal.

Fresh from this success the team competed in the County tournament and were justly crowned champions. They went on to represent Warwickshire at the Regional Finals and were simply outstanding. They won the group stage and face King's Worcester in the Semi-Final. Another strong performance put them into the final against Repton. An early goal and there was no going back. King's won 3-0 to be crowned Midlands' Champions. They will now go through to represent the region at the National Finals in May. This a truly wonderful achievement.

In another first for King's, our U16 Rugby squad proudly took to the field at Roslyn Park to compete in the biggest 7s tournament in the Country. The team showed real spirit and grew throughout the day. They are real trail blazers for our community, and we are very proud of them.

This term has seen badminton matches for our Badminton Academy against two local clubs and a trip to see the Yonex All England Finals at the Utilita Arena in Birmingham. Students were able to watch the very best players competing, as well as meeting current international stars for a photoshoot!

It seems a little early to talk of cricket, but the first fixtures have indeed taken place already this term. Practice indoor matches took place against Bromsgrove before the U13 team competed in the County Finals at Edgbaston. They were simply brilliant. Growing in confidence and team spirit throughout the event to be crowned County Champions. We look forward to seeing them play again at the Regional Finals in April.

Finally, it was our dancers who stole the show at the end of February. We were treated to a wonderful evening of dance from our King's High and Warwick Prep pupils. A packed audience in Warwick Hall enjoyed dances of all different styles in a stunning showcase event, *Time*.

Sarah Parkinson-Mills
Director of Sport



For all the latest Sporting news including Equestrian, view our dedicated weekly Sports Blog at kingshighwarwick.co.uk/sportsblog

CLAY PIGEON TEAM

Join in!
King's High Clay Pigeon Shooting teams have enjoyed great success over recent times winning several Schools' competitions.

No previous experience or equipment is required, just come along and enjoy shooting in a relaxed and friendly environment with expert coaching.

Please email Mr Beverley for further details and guidance at m.beverley@kingshighwarwick.co.uk. Training takes place fortnightly at Wedgnock Shooting Ground, Wedgnock Lane, Warwick, CV35 7PX.



King's High recently entered a team of five students into the Oxford Schools Competition. Coach Piers was on hand to offer guidance throughout the day and accompanied the team around the course. It was fantastic to see two of our more recent recruits, Erin and Amelie, taking part with our Sixth Form students. Following a successful day, the team were crowned the winners and collected their trophy, a Yildiz shotgun and shooting prizes.



TABLE TENNIS

ISA Midlands Table Tennis Champion, Mia, was crowned the National Champion for the second year, representing King's High. Huge congratulations, Mia!

KING'S DRAMA





Drama at King's continues to thrive and be a haven of exciting opportunities for our budding creatives.

As soon as we returned from the Christmas break, rehearsals began for the summer Key Stage 3 production of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. The cast are having huge fun and creating some wonderful characters – tickets are now available to book at bridgehousetheatre.co.uk, using the code ALICE.

Year 7 worked extremely hard with the wonderful Highly Sprung physical theatre company, to produce an outstanding performance of George Orwell's *Animal Farm* – and all in just one day.

A Level and Year 11 pupils went to the Leicester Curve to see the phenomenal *Ocean at the end of the lane* and took creative inspiration from this incredible production.

The LAMDA department were extremely busy in the run up to a week of exams which I am sure went terrifically well. The standard of work we were treated to in their showcase evening was absolutely stunning.

Straight after half term, audiences were moved by the incredibly thought-provoking production of *Chaos* performed by pupils from both King's High and Warwick School. A fascinating insight into the teenage mind as it navigates our chaotic world.

As the term draws to a close, both the Year 11 and Upper Sixth students will be undertaking their performance exams as part of their GCSE and A Level courses. Rehearsals are going brilliantly, and I am sure they will do extremely well as always.

Drama clubs are busily working towards their second showcase of the year which will take place in May and in A.C.T club we have been looking at symbolism in theatre design and had talks on jobs within a theatre setting as well as the lighting design for *Chaos*. It really is all go at King's Drama!

Jessie Wild
Director of Drama



King's High School

ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND

Based on the novel by Lewis Carroll
Adapted by Simon Reade

Thursday 29 June 7pm
Friday 30 June 7pm
Saturday 1 July 3pm

Book tickets at
bridgehousetheatre.co.uk



LAMDA

LAMDA remains popular, with 170 students across the school taking lessons. Recently, pupils from King's High held their annual LAMDA evening in front of a packed audience of family and friends. The programme contained an eclectic mix of speeches, from a range of Shakespearean, 20th century and contemporary plays, as well as poetry and prose from well-known books such as 'Harry Potter'. During the evening it was also fantastic to hear one of LAMDA's

public speakers present their speech on politics within football. It was wonderful to see the pupils performing their pieces to such a high standard, with style and confidence. Having taken their exams in February, pupils are currently waiting for their results, and I am sure with this much talent they will have all done well.

Fiona Mills
Head of LAMDA



A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL

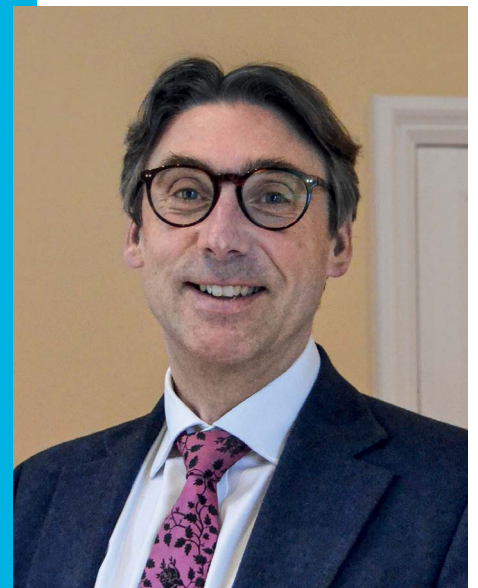
As always, it is a joy to support our pupils in their many and varied endeavours. On the sports field, in the concert hall, and in their myriad – and growing – activities; the achievements of our pupils are remarkable. These wonderful outcomes are enabled by dedicated and expert staff – both teachers and our professional services colleagues – and of course you, our families and the support you bring, not only to your children but to the schools in their entirety, and by extension to the Foundation more broadly.

Earlier this term, I was delighted to share with the Foundation community our new Strategic Plan. This brings to life our ambitions for everything which sits within the charity of Warwick Schools Foundation.

A particular priority for this year is engaging with our pupils in developing meaningful ways for them to work together. Whilst this is well developed between our senior schools on the Myton Road campus, there are opportunities to enhance this still further and extend opportunities between younger pupils and the pupils at The Kingsley School. To this end, we have held our first Foundation Pupil Conference, workshopped by the Heads, and involving pupils from Year 2 to Upper Sixth. Our pupils are quite rightly very proud of their individual schools and talked eloquently about their educational journeys. They also spoke positively about many of the shared experiences – the ‘added value’ of being part of a bigger whole – for example the joint PSHEE programme in the Sixth Form, and the ‘link days’ between Warwick Prep and Warwick Juniors. I look forward to seeing how these discussions with pupils develop over the months to come, and I am sure there will be hugely beneficial experiences which will grow from them.

Finally, last year we ran our first Future Fwd conference. Details about this year’s event may be found here: futurefwd.org/about. As last year, we would be delighted to welcome parents to this event – but please do sign up quickly, as places are limited!

Richard Nicholson
Foundation Principal



Warwick Schools Foundation Strategy

There is a fine balance in every organisation between safekeeping and innovation. This is true of schools, too. In our era of rapid technological and pedagogical advance, standing still is the fastest way of moving backwards. Our schools receive support and scaffolding from the Foundation in order to achieve something that no one school could achieve on its own – to innovate continually for the benefit of the pupil’s schooling and their lives, as well as having the space to cast our minds forward to glimpse what the possibilities and opportunities in education might be in years to come. Read how the Warwick Schools Foundation makes this happen at kingshighwarwick.co.uk/foundationstrategy.

FOUNDATION COMMUNITY

SPARKLE AND SHINE THIS CHRISTMAS!



The Bridge House Theatre is making a *dazzling sound* about the launch of our upcoming Christmas spectacular 'Nativity! The Musical.'

Featuring a fabulous cast of professional actors alongside local young people, we're thrilled to be presenting this modern musical classic, based on the ever-popular film from 2009.

Performances will run from 9 December – 28 December 2023 and tickets are available to book now at bridgehousetheatre.co.uk.

OPEN AUDITIONS – We are looking for 60 talented young people, aged 9-15, to sparkle and shine on stage throughout the run and will be holding auditions later in the year. Email nativity@warwickschools.co.uk with your name and age to ensure you receive the latest audition updates.

SINGATHON

Old Warwickian, Edward Button, and member of the world-famous *King's Singers*, ran a major Singathon event hosted by the Warwick Schools Foundation. Organised by Warwickshire Youth Choirs and supported by Warwick – A Singing Town, the 12-hour Singathon highlighted the joy of singing while raising funds for Kissing it Better. Edward ran two workshops for all ages and abilities, culminating in a massed sing in Warwick Hall.

ENABLING NEXTGEN #FUTUREFWD 3-4 JULY 2023



Our inaugural Future Fwd conference took place last year to great acclaim and we'd be delighted to welcome parents to our next Future Fwd event this summer. Please do sign up quickly as places are limited! Further details available at futurefwd.org – an education conference

reimagined for future-focused education, business and industry leaders, enabling the success of next generations.

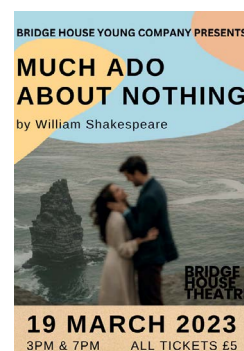
MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

The Bridge House Young Company presented the original romantic comedy 'Much Ado About Nothing'.

'I do love nothing in the world so well as you: is not that strange?'

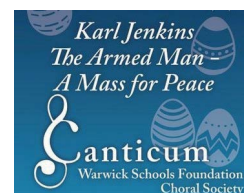
Shakespeare's timeless caper launched onto stage featuring captivating shadow puppetry, dynamic ensemble movement and a haunting refrain of Bob Marley and the Wailers' 'Is This Love'.

The Bridge House Young Company is a young people's theatre company for young people aged 7-18, working with industry professionals to create high quality theatrical experiences. Further details at bridgehousetheatre.co.uk.



CANTICUM

Canticum's concert took centre stage at the Bridge House Theatre. The audience were treated to Karl Jenkin's iconic *The Armed Man, A Mass for Peace* performed by the Canticum choir and orchestra, predominantly drawn from Foundation pupils and staff.



ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN

Sell-out audiences have enjoyed a breathtaking series of Orchestra of the Swan concerts this term. Let us take you into the woods for the next performance as we experience two classic tales, wickedly retold by legendary author Roald Dahl, in this family concert, which is suitable for all ages at Warwick Hall.



The brilliant score, by renowned English composer Paul Patterson, perfectly complements Dahl's irreverent sense of humour. Please book tickets at bridgehousetheatre.co.uk.

LANDOR ASSOCIATION



Felicity Bee
Headmaster's Office



FELICITY BEE

If ever an Old Girl of King's High School embodies the school's motto of *Aspire, Achieve, Enjoy*, that person is Dr Felicity Bee (King's High 2009–2016).

Not only did Felicity throw herself into everything while at school, including academic study, sport and music, but she also obtained a place at one of the best Medical Schools in the country, at Cardiff University. Training to be a doctor is challenging, fulfilling and time-consuming enough, but Felicity also trained with the British bobsleigh squad alongside her studies, and aims to compete in the 2026 Winter Olympics. No wonder she was the unanimous choice of the OGA committee to be this year's after-lunch speaker.

Old Girls and former staff from the 1940s to the 2020s came to Banbury Road for refreshments in the foyer; after perusing *Ilex*

magazines dating from 1947, and admiring a mannequin-clad installation of all King's High uniforms from the past hundred years, they were given tours of the school site by Sixth Formers Izzy, Ivy, Phoebe, Megan, Carla and Rose.

After the AGM in the Dining Room, chaired by OGA President and Head Master, Dr Stephen Burley, and led by OGA Secretary Polly Beidas and Treasurer Sarah Higton, the party enjoyed a delicious three course lunch with wine, cooked by Head Chef Christophe Charpentier and overseen by Front of House Manager Kate Mouzakitis and their teams. Among those attending were seven former members

of staff, and three mother-and-daughter combinations, one of which was actually part of a three-generation family, a first for the OGA lunch, comprising grandmother Sonia Halford, aunt Sarah Pinder, and granddaughters Hannah and Sophie Edwards.

Felicity's after lunch talk was entitled 'What I want to be when I Grow Up', mindful of the fact that, at 25, she was younger than the vast majority of Old Girls present. She had fully embraced life in those 25 years, believing in adventure and enquiry, and always waking up with the intention that 'today is going to be fun'. As a junior doctor who also has also been a sprinter and multi events athlete, Felicity defined the different facets of her busy life by the various types of footwear she wore, namely trainers, surgical clogs, ice spikes, heels (she showcased a lovely glamorous pair of these as she gave her speech), lifting shoes, wellies and Air Force 1s!

The driving force that Felicity possesses makes her always strive to win, but she wanted to stress that it does not make you morally bad to wish to be first on the podium. Felicity had always been sporty at school, doing her homework in the car to and from practice sessions, driven by her supportive and much lauded mother, who was also present.

But it wasn't until she was at Cardiff University that it was suggested she might try bobsleigh. She found she had a talent and love for, and an addiction to, the sport, even though the practice sessions were akin to 'being thrown off a cliff in a wheely bin'.

A European bobsleigh meet clashed horribly with a vitally important part of her medical training. Which one should she miss? Again, it was her supportive mother Amanda who thought Felicity should ask the university if she could postpone one and do the other. They could only say no, but incredibly they didn't! It is hard to keep up in athletic training when all her teammates are full time, but this has only made her more determined.

Cramming so much into her busy life is not always easy. Felicity showed us pie charts of the optimum places to cry at work, and the number of tears shed during which speciality. Running on adrenaline helped her to succeed, and she believed wholeheartedly that a five-minute cry and a fake tan was a splendid antidote to a bad day.

It was a talk peppered with humorous tales of ward life; anecdotes about chicken drumsticks and tattoos jostled for position with the more serious side of her medical career. A passionate advocacy of women's health matters, particularly sexual health, and a focus on the vital importance of a child's first 24 months of life would probably shape her work interests in the near future.

Felicity took questions from the floor. 'How much sleep do you get?' was the first question, but the answer was difficult to quantify when working shifts. 'What is being done in your profession to focus on the first 24 months of a child's life?' came another. 'What are your next goals?' was the last. Alongside 'obs and gynae', Felicity was keen to embrace a full bobsleigh season and to win on the European circuit.

Felicity's fabulous code for life was to find one's happy place, and to make time to do three things each day: to stimulate the mind, the challenge the body, and to nurture the soul. We could all do well to follow this advice.

Dr Burley thanked Felicity warmly for her sparkling talk, particularly after a succession of her night shifts. He introduced Old Girl Clare Sawdon who spoke about the Foundation's hope to endow more bursaries. A raffle in aid of Felicity's favoured charity, the Terrence Higgins Trust, raised nearly two hundred pounds, and prizes which included King's High honey and paintings of Eastgate by teacher Dr Mike Barwell were keenly sought.

The event ended with a rousing rendition of *Jerusalem*, helped by the presence of two professional singers. Any Old Girl or former member of staff is welcome to join **next** year's OGA Lunch on Saturday 16th March 2024 when the guest speaker will be Old Girl and actor Kim Hartman (King's High 1963-1968). Kim has worked at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre but many will remember her as *Helga* in the TV sitcom *'Allo 'Allo*. Booking forms will be available later in the year.

Polly Beidas

Development & Landor Administrator / OGA Secretary

Saturday 24 June 2023

'All the Threes' Reunion afternoon tea. Did you do your A Levels at King's High (or would have done them) in a year ending in a 3? You are cordially invited for refreshments, nostalgia, and for a tour of the school, with your former classmates.

Saturday 11 November 2023

Classics Day! Did you enjoy studying Classics for O level / GCSE, A Level or at university? Join us at King's High for refreshments, a fun Classics quiz and a talk about the school's Roman remains on site. Invitations will be sent out over the summer.

Thursday 7 December 2023

Landor Association Carol Service at the Collegiate Church of St Mary, Warwick. Evening event. All Old Girls and former staff welcome.

St Mary's can no longer accommodate the whole school and parents for its traditional end of term Carol Service, but all are welcome to its Landor counterpart, with familiar carols and readings, as well as the best of King's High's musical talent.

Saturday 16 March 2024

OGA Annual Lunch. Guest Speaker is Old Girl Kim Hartman (King's High 1963-1968), actor seen at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre and known to many as *Helga* from *'Allo 'Allo*.

Booking forms will be available at the end of the year.

For further information please email Polly Beidas (O.G.) at

p.beidas@kingshighwarwick.co.uk

KING'S LINKS

Pupils in Year 10, 11 and Lower Sixth enjoyed a fabulous King's Links trip to Oxford taking in Corpus, New, Hilda's, Balliol, Blackwell's and the Bodleian. One Lower Sixth student commented that they had never felt so excited about books!





A RAMBLE THROUGH THESPIAN LIFE

Comedian, actor and Old Girl Gemma Whelan's Landor Association Lecture in January was a delicious ramble through the uncertainties of thespian life.

Gemma Whelan was deemed 'shy and retiring' by the Headmistress at her King's High interview, but she soon willingly embraced the mantle of 'class clown'. She came to the attention of her Head of English, Miss Mary Clark (KHS 1976-2005), a guest of honour in the front row at the Lecture. Miss Clark encouraged Gemma's dramatic talent, urging her to take the title role in *Daisy Pulls it Off*. Memories of other teachers, some of whom were present, delighted the Old Girls in the audience; it had been easy to distract Mrs Sherren in Maths lessons by asking her to talk about marathon running. Mrs Thornton had clamped down on Gemma's clowning while secretly admiring it.

Gemma's Landor Lecture was endearing, but also forthright and candid. She did not hold back over her health issues which foreshortened her King's High years. She gave credit to her mother for urging her to take her A levels to have something to fall back on in case her career as a performer did not materialise, for Gemma trained as a dancer before she dipped her toes into acting.

A degree in Musical Theatre followed, in addition to training at the London Studio Centre, but then began the precarious path to acting success. Gemma amused us with her tales of a less-than-wonderful agent named Brian, auditions leading to acting work as third woman on the left, alongside several waitressing jobs to pay the bills, and excursions to the Edinburgh Fringe as her comedic alter ego, Chastity Butterworth. While nurturing her dramatic talent, Gemma cast her employment net widely, once even dancing around coffins in a funeral parlour! In addition to her obvious talent, it was clear that dogged persistence played a great part in achieving the success she enjoys today.

Members of the Landor community had sent in their questions for Gemma, and a Q&A session was skilfully chaired by Landor prefect Charlotte. It allowed Gemma to elaborate more on the vagaries of her chosen profession. Her most challenging role, and in many ways the most rewarding, had been Karen Matthews, the real-life child



kidnapper from a northern council estate in *The Moorside*; playing a character from a different social background proved as big an obstacle as the accent – although Gemma overcame both with apparent ease.

While growing and developing as an actor, Gemma's key inspirations were her family, historical characters, other actors like Olivia Coleman and Suranne Jones, and herself. Self belief was a prime motivator. Once, Gemma saw a role at National Theatre Live, which she knew would be touring soon. She knew she could play that role, and knew also that if she could be in the same room as the director, she would get it. She wasn't being cocky, but she believed in herself, and she won the role. Her idol in her formative years had been the American comedy actor Lucille Ball, whom Gemma used to watch on loop. Olivia Coleman, Kate Dickie and Hal Holbrook were others worthy of Gemma's adoration.

Had Gemma ever turned down a role? She joked that actors' ego are so fragile, they seldom turn down anything. However, once she turned down a role because she, laudably, didn't want to leave her infant son to go on location. On another occasion, Covid had struck on Day One of filming, so she had withdrawn from the role, which had to be recast.

Did Gemma have any tips for drama school auditions? Although Gemma hadn't gone to drama school per se, she knew that the key to such events was to relax and be yourself. Show who you really are. Do your homework. Be prepared. Prep is key. Oh, and someone at musical theatre college said 'Don't wear perfume in case they don't like the way you smell!'

Although Gemma often played strong female characters, she thought the term 'strong woman' was a horrible one. Women ARE strong, she reiterated, and applauded the fact that more women writers these days ensured that women were better represented in drama.

Alas, her acting career had not yet afforded her many dazzling and glamorous trips to the Caribbean, although a single and secretive trip to Spain for *Games of Thrones* provided a pleasant change from the quirky Belfast landscape where the series was primarily filmed. Metaphorical slapped wrists were meted out to Ben Elton, writer of *Upstart Crow*, who, although a genius writer, had an annoying habit of writing a whole page of script to learn, just before it was due to be delivered.

Gemma was not sure what her favourite Shakespeare role was and apologised for letting Miss Clark down! She had enjoyed playing Helena, and also 'all those women who were dressed as men', with a slight nod to her character Kate in *Upstart Crow*. She recalled a school trip to *Twelfth Night*, but only wished she could remember the name of the actor playing Sir Andrew Aguecheek! His actions on stage showed how an actor could use his whole body as a vehicle for performance. The body can be funny in different ways. Gemma said, 'His legs were hilarious. He was hilarious. This showed how an actor could incorporate their whole body in the role', something that appealed to her dance training.

Did any King's High staff or pupils inform the way she played her characters? No, replied Gemma, but it was a great idea and she might do so now!

Gemma had enjoyed playing Yara Greyjoy in *Games of Thrones* the most of all her TV roles, partly because the show's budget was so huge! She recalled that instead of their usual filming location of Belfast, the whole cast had been flown out to Spain in order to film during one hour of perfect light. Not everyone had been needed on set, so the rest of the cast had to be 'decoy characters' and were seen around Seville to confuse the media. It had been exciting and grand for Gemma, and so special because Yara only went to Belfast, and outstandingly beautiful place though it was. Starring in *Game of Thrones* was a revelation. 'They drive you place, they sit you down, they dress you, put your make up on, sit you down again. You're like a baby', she mused.

A former Governor had asked what Gemma had taken away from playing a Pinter role, and she jokingly replied, 'Don't dry in Pinter!' Although the rambling scripts and long silences that categorised Harold Pinter's writing would appear to make his work easy to improvise, Gemma urged the audience never to try this.

What other roles had she enjoyed playing? She had loved acting in *Killing Eve*; her character had been useless but she enjoyed hanging out with Fiona Shaw and also Jodie Comer! She had also loved working with Patrick Malahide who played her father in *Game of Thrones*, and with Sheridan Smith who had cried with her on set even when it wasn't her scene, to make her tears authentic, which was so helpful. Gemma recalled 'there was a lot of snotty crying in *The Moorside*'!

Finally, what did Gemma think was the hardest things about acting. That was easy, she quipped. 'It's the bit in between jobs when you think you're never going to work again. You have to trust that it will be OK.'

A vote of thanks to Gemma was given by Landor President David Stevens on behalf of an enraptured audience, and Landor prefect Charlotte presented her with a bouquet with the gratitude of the whole Landor community.




King's High School


King's High School
Banbury Road
Warwick CV34 6YE

t: 01926 494485 f: 01926 403089
e: enquiries@kingshighwarwick.co.uk

kingshighwarwick.co.uk

 [kingshighwarwick](https://www.facebook.com/kingshighwarwick)

 [@KHSWarwick](https://twitter.com/KHSWarwick)

 [kingshighschoolwarwick](https://www.instagram.com/kingshighschoolwarwick)

