



King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Girls



February 2010



Happy Easter



Building News:

The new Learning Hub has now been completed and girls will be taught Biology and Geography in the new laboratories and classrooms. The additional spaces created in



school will mean that we can ensure that all subject areas can have all their rooms together now in subject suites.



We plan to start two new building projects next term—a new two-room technology building jointly with Camp Hill Boys' School including a practical cookery room and re-development of our sixth form centre. Thank you to all those parents who have contributed to our fund-raising anniversary appeal. A reception for them in the new building will be held later this term.

BBC Schools Question Time

Congratulations to six of our Year 13 students Milandra McGrath, Ellie Greathead, Hannah Rawbone, Emily Timms, Beth Garrett and Elaine Joseph who have won through to the finals of the BBC Question Time competition. Having successfully won through two earlier rounds, the students had the daunting task of organising an edition of Question Time in the school on Tuesday evening 23rd March.

The girls invited a wide range of politicians and celebrities to take part, including the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition (who were unfortunately otherwise engaged on the evening). The eventual panel proved not to be a disappointment as Emma Reynolds (Labour), Keely Huxtable (Conservative), Salma Yaqoob (Respect Party) Karen Hamilton (Lib Dem) and Ed Doolan from BBC WM debated in a lively, at times heated, and at times humorous way, issues raised by the audience. The verbal sparring between Emma Reynolds and Salma Yaqoob added spice to what was a serious and intelligent debate made all the more so by the thoughtful questions and comments made by pupils and parents from the large audience that attended. Ms Preedy's excellent chairing of the debate made many of us think that David Dimbleby's job might be under threat if the BBC judges in the audience were looking for a replacement! As one audience member commented, it was "an excellent show ... good enough to have been broadcast on Midlands TV".

The girls will hear by the end of term if they have been selected as one of four schools (from 16 being judged) to win the contest. Two students from each of the final 4 schools will spend three days in London in July producing the actual show with David Dimbleby. Win or lose we are very proud of the highly professional show they produced.

School Closes on Thursday 1st April and re-opens on Monday 19th April. Monday 3rd May—May Day Bank Holiday.

Looking ahead to events in April/May

- 22nd April—Yr12 History trip to the cold War Conference
- 23rd April—Sports Team Photographs
- 27th April—Senior Music Concert 7.00pm
- 28th April: Global Storytelling Evening
- 29th April—Yr10 Parents' Evening
- 15th/16th May—Duke of Edinburgh weekend
- 17th May—AS & GCSE exams begin
- 24th May—internal exams for KS3 and Yr10
- 27th May—Yr13 Leavers' Service
- 28th May—Staff Training Day.

Staffing

Thank you to Gareth Thomas who joined us to help cover Mrs McLundie's maternity leave. David Eckley, an experienced geography teacher and KES old boy, will be joining the geography department in April.

Success of former Student

Eleanor Bassett, a former student, is due to be commissioned at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst on 16th April.

AS/A2 Theatre Show Case

The AS and A-level Drama students recently put on a showcase of their examination pieces. The Drama department would like to thank all the staff, parents and students who came to watch the performances and give the girls their support. The final examination performances took place on Tuesday 2nd March and the students all did very well.

Congratulations on some successful performances girls!

Bust-A-Rhyme Poetry Competition

In the last edition of the newsletter four girls in KS3 had successfully taken part in the Young Writers' *Bust-A-Rhyme* poetry competition - a competition available to all students.

However, these entries and more from our school have now been selected for publication, a great achievement! My poem, *Seashell*, and those of the other girls will be featured in the *Bust-A-Rhyme, Warwickshire & The West Midlands*. This is scheduled for publication on the 31st March 2010 and you can find out more on www.youngwriters.co.uk.

Congratulations to everybody who took part in the poetry competition, and hopefully this will encourage more people to keep on writing and entering competitions.

Reshma Ratansi, 13X

Regional Shakespeare Festival

On Wednesday 24th March we were very pleased to host this event, organised by Allens Croft Primary School. Each year the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford-upon-Avon recruits 10 to 12 hub schools from across the country to co-ordinate a regional Shakespeare Festival. As hub school, Allens Croft worked with a cluster of eight other schools in the area to provide primary children with the opportunity to explore Shakespeare's work through performance. The project is also supported by the Arts Council, Creative Partnerships and the University of Warwick. The end result was a production in our Sports Hall and budding thespians had a fantastic experience. The performances illustrated the very different approaches taken by each school and the unique responses of the young people to Shakespeare's stories, characters and language. The schools taking part were from Allens Croft Primary, Moor Green Primary, Arden Primary, Colmore Infants and Juniors, Hollywood Primary, Hall Green Junior, Montgomery Primary and St. Brigid's Catholic Primary.

French & Business Event—*The Apprentice*

Forty Year 9 pupils from Camp Hill Girls' and Boys' Schools took part in activities organised by Coventry and Aston Universities, to give them an insight into how French is used in the workplace. In teams of 6 their task was to design and sell a Christmas Cracker on the French market. This was quite a challenge, as crackers are not part of a traditional French Christmas and pupils had to consider social and cultural factors as well as production costs, prices and advertising strategies. They then had to present their ideas, using both French and English, to guest judges - David Hollier from Barclays, and Ifor Lewis from HSBC.

The winning team, made up of Sophie Hobbs, Adrianna Whittle, Selina Khan and Haridha Pandian from Camp Hill Girls' and Matthew Childs and Daunsih Nagargar from Camp Hill Boys'. received either French language books or books on Paris.

The day proved a lot of fun for all participants, who left with a clearer idea of the difference between everyday language and the more formal style of business language.

Mrs L. M Johnson.

Young Enterprise 2009 – 2010 Bull Ring and School Fairs

At the start of the year sixty Year 12 students decided to set up businesses as part of Young Enterprise. Hush, Fonx, Yours, Hugs & Mugs, Charmed, Bijoux and Scarf were formed as sub-groups of the Camp Hill Girls' Companies 1 and 2 due to the wide range of product ideas given by the many members. They ranged from personalised mugs containing sweets or teddies, jewellery, phone covers, personalised photo frames, jewellery holders and charms for mobiles. These ideas seemed both realistic and attractive and from past experience we suspected the products would sell well as gifts. We sold our products at lunchtimes and in trade fairs at Christmas and near Mother's Day which were held in the school. To sell our products to the public we spent one day at a trade fair in the Bull Ring and also intend to go to Touchwood in Solihull. It was very interesting to compare the different consumer markets and identify the reasons. While we sold more in the school fairs, the Bull Ring was a very enjoyable experience from which we learnt a lot about presentation and selling. We had to actually go out and bring in the customers and not just wait for them to come to us and some of us have now discovered new found powers of persuasion!

Mrs S Widger

Mother's Day Fair at School

We thought that this would be a good opportunity for us to sell more of our stock. Years 7, 8 and 9 were very keen to buy last minute personalised items for Mother's Day and our turnover looks considerably healthier. Thanks to the technology staff for making the room available to us—we found that the event was a great success.

Higher Education Day Wednesday 24th February

On the 24th February Year 12 students took part in the annual Higher Education Conference run in conjunction with Camp Hill Boys' School. The morning consisted of a speech by James Seymour of Aston University, who discussed the process of applying to University, followed by students attending sessions they had chosen themselves ranging from history to economics to an Oxbridge student's view. Each student then attended a selection of seminars regarding careers and universities. These ranged from courses such as medicine and English literature, universities like Oxford and Warwick, and careers like teaching and dentistry. Many professionals took the time to come into our schools and run these sessions, which proved invaluable; they will surely benefit us hugely in the coming months, deciding what we want to do for the rest of our lives and applying for places at university. We learnt about the application process, as well as what life is like at university and how to pursue a career in any of the offered options. Ultimately, the day helped us in either choosing our career paths or cementing our determination to pursue a previously chosen one.

We met people from a range of areas, with a range of personalities – anyone who attended the Journalism talk was enlightened by the somewhat cynical yet realistic portrayal of the 'dying' trade. It opened our eyes to the breadth of possible opportunities available to us, and confirmed many student's aspirations. In the evening James Seymour returned to give a useful and informative talk on the application process to the parents of students from both schools.

The day was very useful and well organised, and on behalf of Year 12 we would like to thank all the staff who helped to organise a successful day as well as all the busy people who gave up their time to attend.

Rebecca Adkins , Temitayo Akindeinde, Razan Saeed, and Neha Sandhu

The British Biology Olympiad Challenge 2010

On a blustery February afternoon, eight Year 13 biologists (Yasmin Bouattia, Layla Guscoth, Mimi Li, Madiha Majid, Rizwana Malik, Gayatri Raghuram, Reshma Ratansi and Luxi Sun) trekked all the way up to the top floor to take part in the British Biology Olympiad Challenge.

Our training involved intense weekly sessions to learn new material that was not yet covered, or even in our syllabus. In fact, most of what we learnt was above even A Level standard! This was immensely difficult work, and involved a lot of commitment on our part, as well as from our biology teachers.

Although it was often mentally demanding, we were well rewarded for our efforts. Not only did we get chocolates from the science department, but several of the participants were also commended or highly commended. In particular, Rizwana achieved a bronze medal, and Mimi and Reshma both attained silver medals. This is the best performance so far that the School has had in the Biology Olympiad competitions. The girls have been invited to attend an award presentation ceremony at Imperial College, London.

Unfortunately, none of our team got through to the next round, but that's something for future years to aim for. The team would like to thank Miss Rollason and Mr Dawson for their dedicated efforts and for giving up their Tuesday afternoons.

By Reshma Ratansi and Mimi Li

Soroptimists' Public-Speaking Competition

Soroptimists International (SI) is a women's service organization which works actively to raise funds and awareness to help the disadvantaged, and in particular to raise the status of women globally. A distinguished former Headteacher of CHG, Miss Joan Miller, was a longstanding member of the local SI Birmingham Central Club and it was that link which led to our School being invited to put forward two entrants for this year's Midland Arden Region Public Speaking Competition.

Assia Barigou (12W) and Oshin Suresh (12Y) represented Camp Hill Girls in this challenging competition along with eight other contestants selected from state and independent schools across the Midlands region. The event was held on Saturday 13 March in the historic Council Chamber in the city of Coventry, in the presence of the Lord Mayor, and all the student speakers rose to the occasion and its grand setting by producing lively, articulate and well-researched speeches on a range of topics. Assia considered whether books are a thing of the past, and Oshin challenged the notion that mothers should stay at home to raise their children.

CHG won this competition in 2009, and it was going to be exceedingly tough to lift the Midland Arden Trophy again this time around; our two contestants spoke superbly but neither managed to impress the panel of judges quite as much as the young man from Lawrence Sheriff School in Rugby who came away with the trophy and £100 prize. Assia and Oshin each received a £25 book token sponsored by our local SI Club, Birmingham West, in recognition of the girls' excellent preparation and performance on the day.

Mr J Clear

Year 9 Options Evening: Tuesday 23 February

There was a fantastic turn out to this event with 112 students represented by their parents. The evening had three sections: options and early GCSE entry, how to survive the hassles of exams and Building Learning Power. Ms Owens went through the core and option subjects including additional mathematics and statistics to be covered in Year 11, whilst Miss Meredith talked about how options and stress management would be covered with 'Never fear, PHSE is here!' Finally Mrs Johnson put the parents to the test with Building Learning Power and tested their skills of visual observation. There was lots of positive feedback at the end of the evening and thank you to everyone who returned their questionnaires.

M. Meredith

David Graham's Natural High Tour: Thursday, 25 February

The message behind David's tour is that you do not need drugs or alcohol to get a natural high, you can get it through the talents you possess and the ability to get involved. Year 7 learnt a lot about the dangers of drugs especially that alcohol claims the most deaths in any year. The girls took part in sport and music competitions and the winners of the slogan competition were: Annie Pearson, Eleanor McCorry –Hill and Imogen Cheatham. Imogen's winning slogan will feature in next year's promotional poster for Birmingham.

M. Meredith

Loudmouth Theatre: 'My Mate Fancies You': Monday, 1 March

This year we were fortunate enough to secure funding to have our local Theatre in Education group, Loudmouth based in Moseley, come into school to work with Year 7 on issues of growing up, boyfriends and adolescence. Each session lasted two hours and the first part was about two friends, Daniel and Samantha leaving junior school and how they change between Y6 and Y9. This was then followed by a workshop looking at how the two characters changed and the reasons for it. This was then followed by some interactive role plays on how to deal with conflict. An excellent session we hope to repeat next year.

M. Meredith

Diverse Arts: 'What am I going to tell Mum? Tuesday, 16 March

As part of the PHSE Sex and Relationships programme, Year 9 watched a short play about the consequences of unprotected, underage sex and teenage pregnancy. 'What am I going to tell Mum?' follows what happens to Kerry when she discovers she is pregnant, the advice she should have followed, mum's reaction and the choices before. The session was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

M. Meredith

Review Day Activities – Spring Term 2010

We have recently had our second review day of the year. All pupils met with their reviewer and set targets for future improvements to enable them to secure high outcomes in their learning. In addition to the interview process, many pupils were also involved in additional activities to enrich and support their curriculum learning. These have included a Eurovision Activity for Y7, Careers and Financial Literacy events for Y9, Revision skills workshops for Year 11 and Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) sessions for Year 12 students.

Year 7 Eurovision Activity

The girls spent an enjoyable couple of hours working in groups to Lip Sync (all the best pop stars do it!), choreograph and introduce and explain a song in the language of the song. The aim of the exercise was to introduce the girls to a wider range of language than they are currently studying, to develop their team work skills and to have fun! The language input was supported by our French and German Assistants, and Miss Lee who will be joining us next year in the Languages department. At the end of the session, all pupils performed their songs to the rest of the group.

Year 9 Careers and Financial Literacy

Year 9 students had a very busy Review Day participating in two different activities - both as part of our provision for Careers, Work Related and Enterprise Learning– a Careers Event on Wednesday afternoon and a half day Financial Literacy session. The Careers Event enabled the pupils to interact with visitors from a range of career backgrounds including, engineering, teaching, radiography, architecture, city planning, and dentistry including the most popular freebie known to Camp Hill Girls – free teeth!

The Financial Literacy session complemented the workshop held earlier in the year “At home with the Wiltons” and through a range of activities informed them about the importance of budgeting and spending your money appropriately including aspects of credit, debt, interest rates and government spending. The event ended with the pupils designing their own credit card with appropriate incentives.

Year 11 Revision skills

Year 11 attended sessions to help prepare them for their GCSE examinations that they will be taking in the summer. The focus of these sessions is to introduce them to a range of different revision and memory techniques to aid them in the coming weeks. In addition to the techniques to aid the learning, the sessions also focus on aspects of examination technique and stress—busting activities.

Year 12 EPQ Session

Miss Preedy worked with those pupils in Y12 who are opting to complete an Extended Project Qualification next year; many of these students are also using this to secure an AQA Baccalaureate as an overarching Advanced Level qualification. The presentation focused on the learning objectives and assessment criteria, the nature of their projects, the skills that would be required to complete them and aspects of record keeping which are necessary to ensure that appropriate evidence is collected towards the award.

Dr J Rose

Assistant Headteacher

Year 11 Conference

Year 11 enjoyed a range of workshops by outside providers as part of the Conference including dance, aromatherapy, reflexology, yoga and creative work.

“Chronicle” – A Global Story Telling Event.

We would like to invite you to attend this year’s Global Story Telling event, “Chronicle”. The evening will provide a mix of drama, dance and song and promises to be highly enjoyable.

“Chronicle” is taking place on Wednesday 28th April and features work from across all Key Stages. It will begin at 7pm and last approximately two hours, tickets will be on sale shortly at a cost of £1 per student and £2 for family/friends tickets.

A percentage of the money raised will be going to help work in an orphanage in Uganda. We really hope to see you there to help us celebrate the school’s wide range of talent and raise some money for a very worthwhile cause!

Miss P Long

King Edward Camp Hill Old Girls’ Association –KECHOGA

Are you a Camp Hill Old Edwardian?

Do you begin to reminisce as you drop your daughter off at school, of the ‘*good times you had many years ago*’?!

Now may be the time to consider joining your contemporaries in this active ‘OLD GIRLS’ ASSOCIATION’?

The committee organises 2 meetings a year – usually in April and October and these cover a variety of themes chosen from suggestions from the members. We send out 3 editions of the KECHOGA News keeping you updated with information from both present and old girls and as we endeavour to expand the membership, it gives old girls the opportunity to *keep in touch*.

With our wealth of experience as ‘old girls’ we should like to consider offering new supporting roles for the current girls and so would love to hear from any mother, who themselves used to go to Camp Hill.

Our next event is on **Saturday 24 April 2010**; more details can be found on the school website, simply click on **Old Girls**. Alternatively send your contact details to kechoga@hotmail.com and we will be able to add you on to the mailing database. Also, please don’t hesitate to pass this on to fellow Old Camp Hill Edwardians who you feel would also like to be involved. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

A FUN OPPORTUNITY – THIS SUMMER.

**CALLING :- ALL PARENTS, RELATIVES, GRANDPARENTS AND UNCLE
TOM COBBLY AND ALL.**

CLASES DE ESPAÑOL.

Have you always wanted to learn Spanish, but never had the opportunity?

Have you a property in Spain and fancy communicating more with the locals?

Or, simply you would like a fresh challenge at starting something new?

No Experience Needed.

In June and July 2010 I'll be offering weekly Spanish classes probably on a
Wednesday afternoon.

More details to follow in the next newsletter. Watch this space!

In the meantime, enjoy Easter and ¡Hasta pronto!

J. Marcetic. (Languages Department).

SONGS FROM THE SHOWS V
FAME AND MAMMA MIA
MARCH 2010

The Music Department's fifth Songs from the Shows production was a tremendous success involving 94 Show Choir members singing and dancing their hearts out to well over 650 audience members over two nights. A real showbiz feel came across and everyone involved had a great time!

The Show Choir was ably supported by Chamber Choir and a Band in singing out rock and pop numbers which the audience felt moved to join in with by the end! Many impressive soloists and dancers took the stage delighting us all.

Thanks to everyone who was involved especially the sixth form assistants in drama, dance, set, production and lighting but particularly to Miss Hawthorne, Miss Budden, Mrs Hagyard and Mrs Perks. We all had a ball! And 2011...?

SCHOOL TRIP TO ROME FEBRUARY 2010

Years 11—13

The Colosseum, or Flavian Amphitheatre, is the largest amphitheatre ever built in the Roman Empire. It is considered to be one of the greatest examples of Roman architecture and engineering. Capable of seating over 50 thousand spectators, the Colosseum was used to house fights between gladiators, many of whom were slaves or heavy gamblers. The Colosseum was eventually used as a Christian shrine and to-day attracts thousands of tourists every year.

We all hugely enjoyed seeing the Colosseum, despite the bitterly cold weather. After a warm lunch in a restaurant to offset the cold weather, we ventured back into the cold and sat on the steps listening to our guide, Richard, talk about the extent of the Roman Empire.

We then went to the Forum, where we saw the remains of: a law court – to-day a Church—and the Temple of the Vestal Virgins, who were the guardians of the Holy Fire. They followed a ten-year education, after which, they made a vow of chastity and their daily work was to keep the fire burning. If the celibacy was broken, then the punishment was being buried alive. After this, we then trooped back to the hotel and the warm, trying to remember the extensive list of facts we had been told that day. It was an intriguing and varied day and the insight we got into the Roman Empire was interesting, despite the cold weather.

On Friday morning, we all woke up early after a late night run in with some very noisy Spanish girls, only to meet them again at breakfast. After breakfast, we all gathered in the lobby, ready for the day ahead of us. We walked to the Metro station on our journey to the Vatican, where, everyone except Mrs Davidson's group managed to get on the train. However, after a minute or two, we all met up again on the other side, with the missing group arriving safe and sound.

Finally, we arrived at the Vatican Museum itself, ready to embark on our four hour tour. After going through what seemed like airport security, we all collected our headsets so that we could actually hear what the tour guide, Richard, had to say about the Vatican. Fully equipped, we embarked on our tour of the museum looking at all the different works of art present, scanning centuries in their origins. Saying the artwork was beautiful, would be an understatement; it was truly incredible. There were rooms and rooms and corridor after corridor of spectacular work, each room telling its own story.

After much anticipation came the piece de resistance of the Vatican, other than the Pope – the Sistine Chapel. The first thing to hit us was the awed silence, the second thing being the huge fresco by Michelangelo, *The Last Judgment*, which covered one whole wall of the chapel. It took four years to complete and depicts the second coming of Christ and the apocalypse. Painted at the top are angels and saints, whilst at the bottom are grotesque figures of the damned. Though now seen as one of the most beautiful paintings in the Vatican, when it was first created, Cardinal Karajan was so disgusted that 'so sacred a place depicted all those nude figures, exposing themselves so shamelessly' he demanded it be censored. It was, but now Cardinal Karajan can be seen in the bottom corner of the fresco with a donkey's ears, his nudity covered by a coiled snake.

During the entire time we were inside the museum and Chapel, it was snowing really heavily outside for the first time in 25 years! After escaping the snow in Britain, we found ourselves back in it! You can take the British out of the snow, but you can't take the snow away from the British. We then queued, in what seemed like the biggest queue ever to get into St.Peter's Basilica. However, it moved more quickly than expected but, guess what we found at the end – Yes more airport type security!

However, as we went into St Peter's, it was most definitely worth the wait in the bad weather. It was yet again another piece of beautiful architecture and art, but this time instead of the cramped atmosphere of the Sistine Chapel, the Basilica could hold up to 60,000 people. Once we entered however, our fingers soon found their way to the off buttons on our headsets, if only to listen to the touring choir, who were performing inside.

Despite our failed attempt to meet the Pope, it was all in all, a wonderful experience. However, the day was not over yet. After lunch, we made our way to Castel St.Angelo, with its underground passage from the city, where we were unfortunately not allowed up to the rooftop, but had to make do with the impressive bridge with its many statues and view of St Peter's.

A number of fountains and squares later, we found our way to the Pantheon - or as described by many, 'the building with the hole in the top'. The beautiful structure has proven to be impossible to replicate and we were left wondering as to how amazing it would have been to have been here when it had been snowing earlier. Nevertheless, it was beautiful

The Trevi Fountain is a famous baroque fountain in Rome, standing 25.9 metres high and 19.8 metres wide. Its stature alone made it impressive to behold, but the beautiful architecture is also breathtaking. It was initiated by Bernini and finished in 1762 by Guiseppe Pannini. We visited the fountain in the evening, as Dr Dewes assured us this was the most magical time to see it! Our party left the hotel, for what we were told was a twenty minute walk, only to find it took twice as long. Our honorary tour guide, Dr Dewes, claimed that this was to experience more of Rome; of course, he would never admit to getting us lost!. However, we stayed in high spirits throughout the walk. When we finally arrived at the Fountain, it was well worth the wait. It is a tradition, at the Trevi, to throw in two coins, one to make a wish and one to come back again. We kept up our energy for the walk home with a stop at the pancake and gelato shop.

Around Rome, we mostly walked, but we did venture on to the metro and bus for some of our excursions. This was an adventurous experience, especially for team Davidson, who got left behind on the metro. Our last bus ride entailed a sad farewell to Richard, the tour guide, though our thoughts were soon distracted by the cramped conditions. Our first and final adventures in Rome were, of course, the airports. Before the journey back we spent three hours sitting on the floor of check-in; this was certainly a test of our creativity as we tried to entertain ourselves. We said our final goodbye to Rome as we watched the night scene drift beneath the plane and it was definitely a sad return to England.

Mrs R Davidson

Year 12's residential to Hogwarts (Somerset)

On the 16th of March the Geography AS level groups set off on their visit to Nettlecombe Court, down in Somerset. We stayed for three nights and had great fun, particularly when 'Cake Time' rolled around. It was part of our work on Crowded Coasts and Rebranding Places – the two topics of Unit Two. We visited the beaches of Porlock and Minehead, and then a tiny little village called Watchet (in serious need of rebranding). It was then our task to sell the village to the rest of the group, and make it a fun place to visit. On our final day we visited Bristol and explored the area to conduct fieldwork surveys and find out how the area had been rebranded.

Though some of us had a problem with our hair being 'a mess' we all really enjoyed the practical side to the course, and it was a fantastic way to learn. It got a lot of the course done in a short, intense period of time, and it really bonded the group, particularly after a giant hide and seek and ghost story telling session in the dark on the middle of the 'signal hill' (there being no signal in the house).

The best part of the trip (aside from the Geography of course), was the food. With tonnes of cake to be had, vast quantities of home cooked nosh and plentiful supplies of tea we were all definitely very well fed and set for our days in the great outdoors.

Mr C Revitt

England Talent Squad 2010

Last December I had two pieces of good news about my synchronised swimming. First I was chosen to be in the England Talent Squad for the third year and second I was selected to be one of three girls to be sponsored by Kellogg's.

Kellogg's have given me some money to put towards my training (to buy equipment and kit) and I am being mentored by Olivia Allison from Team GB. In January I travelled down to Aldershot to meet Olivia for a day's training. It was a great day and very exciting to meet Olivia – she was part of the GB synchro duet who went to the Olympics in Beijing – so I was able to ask her about her experiences at the Olympic Games. The picture shows us both at the High Performance Centre in Aldershot where the British swimming team is based.

At half term I went to Manchester for the second training camp as part of the England Talent Squad. Sixteen girls were initially chosen at the National Synchro Championships in December to be put forward for the squad but at half term there was another selection camp to reduce the number down to 12. We were assessed for stamina, flexibility and a number of other criteria.

In July we will be travelling to Athens, Greece to compete in the Comen Cup – last year we went to Belgrade in Serbia. It is very exciting, but also very hard work. We train as often as we can in Manchester, but in between times I have to do around 12 hours training each week to maintain my fitness. This comprises of speed swimming, synchro and also land based training in the gym and flexibility work.

We are going to have 2 teams – one is a free team and the other a combination team which comprises of various linked duet and solo elements. The pool in Athens is an outdoor one so we will have to be careful to wear lots of sunscreen to protect us.

The competition is a great experience as we meet girls from all over the world - competing against Russia, Canada, USA, South Africa and many other European countries.

Lucy Ridge 10Y

U16 Badminton Regional Finals

On 11th March 2010 we represented King Edward VI Camp Hill Girls and Birmingham City in the regional finals of the Centre Parc National Schools Badminton Tournament. Our team consisted of Hattie Wu 11X, Helen Duan 11x, Jean Yang 10V, Misha Sebastian 11W, and Grace Kneapsey 11Y. Unfortunately we didn't get through to the Nationals as we lost to Redhill School, who had two Worcester players, by one game.

Well done to the whole team for reaching the Regionals, it was a great achievement. We felt that this was a great experience and thoroughly enjoyed the competitive atmosphere. If there is a Key Stage 5 tournament next year we will be more than happy to enter again and hopefully get to the National final.

Hattie Wu and Helen Duan 11X.

Sporting Achievements

Helen Duan 11X has been selected to represent Worcestershire at the Harrod Inter Counties Badminton Tournament from 8th to 11th April.

Georgina Hartigan 9V was selected to compete in the all England Schools Cross Country Championships on 20th March.

Tennis

Unseeded Celia Fraser 13V won the British Tour at Warwick University beating the fourth seed Sian Bayliss 3-6, 6-1, 6-4. This is Celia's first British Tour title.

Congratulations Celia.

Oxfam Collection December 2009

I am delighted to see the tremendous effort that has been made to make such an excellent contribution to this year's Oxfam Unwrapped. The excellent sum of £1066.20 has been collected, which is a considerable amount more than last year. Considering the number of other charities that the School is also involved in, this is a fantastic effort and I am sure that there will be many very grateful children and adults that desperately need as much help as possible just to survive.

amount	total	
7W	13.95	Three buckets for carrying fresh water
7X	23.00	Safe water for 10 and health check ups
7Y	81.80	Essential medicines for a whole village
7Z	14.68	Safe water for 10
8W	51.40	Build a well
8X	36.84	Feed 5 families in an emergency, vaccinations, food and first aid
8Y	41.21	buy a cow
8Z	85.27	build a toilet and a rainwater collection system
9V	22.70	safe water for 20
9W	26.00	build a well
9X	4.00	school supplies
9Y	40.00	safe water for 10 and health check ups and a goat
9Z	49.27	build a well, health check ups and give girls a headstart, clothing, books etc
10V	36.00	Feed 5 families in an emergency, vaccinations, food and first aid
10W	35.31	safe water for 10, feed a family and give girls a headstart
10X	11.43	feed a family in an emergency, vaccinations, food and first aid
10Y	20.00	safe water for 10 and 5 bags of seeds
10Z	13.87	5 bags of seeds
11V	9.73	safe water for 10
11W	48.00	build a well and train a teacher
11X	41.00	build a well, safe water for 10 and feed a family
11Y	59.03	solar panels, a goat and safe water for 10
11Z	68.05	safe water for 20 and train a farmer
12U	24.95	a goat
12V	35.16	a goat and safe water for 10
12W	59.00	build a well, train a teacher and health check ups
12X	20.05	build a toilet together with 12Y
12Y	21.00	build a toilet together with 12X
12Z	17.20	Animal care, vaccinations, medicines and training for vets
13V	11.05	5 bags of seeds
13X	17.57	Give girls a headstart, clothing, books etc
13Y	14.42	a rainwater collection system
13Z	13.26	a rainwater collection system
total	1066.20	

Mrs C Lynn

Premium Rate Services

Recent research claims that 37% of 11-17 year olds have used music or video content on their phone in the past six months, but only one third knew how much they would be charged for doing so. It is surprisingly easy to spend more on a mobile phone than you plan to. Premium services can include ringtones, games, charity donations, competition entries, news alerts, etc, and these generally cost substantially more than your usual call/text rate. To identify a premium rate service look for phone numbers beginning 09, 0871, 0872, 0873, 118 or text numbers with 5 or 6 digits. The PhoneBrain campaign (www.phonebrain.org.uk) is an attempt to educate people about these services. They publish a code of practice and provide the means to raise complaints.

Just for information, industry guidelines mean that you should never receive an unsolicited text and that if you sign up to a subscription service you should be able to cancel at any time by texting STOP to the same number.

Mr N Frost

Checking your email

Most pupils have web-based email, and struggle to regularly check their school email account. Why not configure your email to automatically show your school emails too? This is easy to set up when using modern webmail such as Google-mail, Yahoo, etc. Just find the 'check pop3 email' option and supply the necessary details :

POP3 server: pop.kegschg.bham.sch.uk
Username: <your full school email address>
Password: <your school account password>

Remember : - Don't delete the messages from your school account – you won't be able to see them in school (you should only be using your school account when in school)!

PS. You may prefer to control your school account using the IMAP protocol – that works too!

PPS. Remember that sending mail from your non-school account will tell the recipient your email address – so avoid this, or configure your account to 'reply to' your school email address.

Mr N Frost

Microsoft Office Upgrade

We have upgraded many of our machines to Microsoft Office 2007. If this is causing problems then here are some suggestions:

Any file created in older versions will open in school, and can be moved back and forth without problem.

Any new file created in Office 2007 can be saved in a version compatible with older versions of the software (as we have told the girls).

There is a free download from Microsoft that allows older versions of Office to convert files produced by the new version (although newer features may be lost if used).

Many free office applications (including OpenOffice and Google docs) understand Microsoft Office's new file formats.

Finally if you were considering upgrading...

Be aware that sites like software4students allow school students (and staff) to purchase full versions of software at discounted rates. This is completely legal (there are links from Microsoft's own websites) and typical prices include windopws7 Professional or Office 2007 Professional at around £35 each. You order online, quoting a valid school email address as proof of status and they mail you the DVD.

Mr N Frost

Alliance in Partnership

If parents wish to add funds to their daughter's account at the end of term, please note that cheques cannot be accepted on the last day of term.

Learning and Skills Council

The Learning and Skills Council wants your opinion to count. They want you to share your views in surveys and feedback about your life as a learner. The first TWENTY students from your institution will be sent £4 in shopping vouchers just for joining up. Plus you'll get occasional feedback and £1 or £2 in shopping vouchers every time you take part in a survey.

Find out more at:<http://www.learnerpanel.co.uk/fe/c=113606&x=398739>