



King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Girls



February 2010

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Examination Success:

We are very pleased to be able to report that we were top in Birmingham and 6th nationally for GCSE's and tenth nationally for A levels in recently published DCSF Performance Tables.

Staff News:

We are pleased to welcome three new members of staff: Miss Phillipa Long who joins the Drama department and Mr Paul McAnaney and Mr Andrew Wager who join the History department. Mr Wager is now Key Stage 5 Coordinator.

Miss Shannon, Mrs Boote-Powell and Mrs McLundie will be commencing their maternity leave after half-term.

Young Writers

Congratulations to Akanksha Anand, Shahjehan Hanif, Hayley Cross and Bethany Evans who recently entered the Bust-A-Rhyme poetry competition. The editorial team selected work for publication on the basis of perception, imagination, expression and good use of language. The poems will appear in Bust-A-Rhyme: The East and West Midlands Anthology and will be kept at the British Library and further libraries across the UK, providing a lasting record of their achievements.

Well done to all those who entered and congratulations to our budding poets.

Miss P Coady

Readathon 2009-2010

Congratulations to year 7 for raising a total of £1,073 during the sponsored Readathon event that took place last term. The funds will help support the Sargent Cancer Care for Children and The Roald Dahl Foundation. Recent donations have been spent on employing specialist nurses and the Foundation would like to extend their thanks to all those who were involved. Well done!

Miss P. Coady



Have you thought about becoming a secondary teacher? Do you want to earn while you learn?

The King Edward's Consortium Graduate Teacher Programme offers trainees employment as an unqualified teacher in one of our 16 consortium schools whilst on our one-year QTS programme. We are currently recruiting for September 2010 and are particularly keen to hear from well-qualified graduates in Maths, Physics and Design and

Technology, but also offer places in a range of other subjects.

Please see our website at: www.teachkec.org.uk for further information, or write to: Frances Child, Training Manager at: *Training Centre, Foundation Office, Edgbaston Park Road, Birmingham B15 2UH. Telephone: 0121 415 6007 or email: rep@kegschg.bham.sch.uk*

School closes on Friday 12th February and re-opens on Tuesday 23rd February.

Monday 22nd February is a teacher training day.

Looking ahead to events in February/ March

- 23rd Feb—Yr9 Curriculum & Option Choices evening
- 24th Feb—Yr12 Higher Education Day with Camp Hill Boys.
- 1st March—Yr 7 Loudmouth Theatre
- 2nd March—Instrumental Parents' Evening 7.00pm CHB
- 3rd March—Yr13 trip to Wuthering Heights
- 4th March—Yr9 Parents' Evening
- 9th/10th March -Yr 7 to St. Martin's
- 11th March—Shortened day.
- 12th March—Yr 11 Conference
- 15th March -Yr13 trip to Stalin conference
- 16th—19th March – Yr12 geographers to Nettlecombe Court.
- 16th March—LEPRA Yr7 Dance Event
- 18th/19th March—Songs from the Shows
- 24th March—Review Day—pm
- 25th March—Review Day
- 30th March—Training Concert 5.30pm.

Governors

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Jane Bradshaw, mother of Iris Bradshaw in Yr8, as our new parent governor and Mrs L. E. Johnson who has been re-elected as staff governor.

Homework Policy

A reminder that the revised homework policy has been sent to parents, inviting comments, via SchoolComms. If you are not yet registered to receive messages via SchoolComms and would like a copy, please contact school to arrange for one to be sent out.

SchoolComms

This method of contacting parents worked extremely well for advising parents of the snow closures. If any parents are not yet registered for this and would like to receive messages either by e-mail or text would you please make sure we have your correct e-mail address and mobile phone number.

Year 8 Mike Fleetham's Smart Thinking Day

Which one are you?

- a circle,
- a squiggle,
- a square,
- a triangle,
- or a rectangle?

The question was posed and the Year 8 students of KECHG listened attentively to the meaning behind their answers.

Mike Fleetham, once again, delivered a very enjoyable introduction to different learning styles and how effective they are in terms of retention. It was a very interactive day which culminated with all girls using their strengths to produce work reflecting what they had discovered throughout the day: from huge 3D-posters to show-stopping performances.

A huge thank you goes to Mike Fleetham, Miss Meredith and all staff who helped with the running of the event.

Miss H Veerapen.

CBI Business in the Classroom Project

A group of a dozen Year 12 students have been eager to develop their skills of self management, team working, problem solving, communication and literacy, business and customer awareness, application of numeracy and information technology through a business-related project.

The team are working with GVA Grimley, International Property Advisors based in Brindley Place, to review their current practices regarding car parking and to make recommendations for smarter travel choices which might have a lesser impact on the environment. They are plotting the post code data for the employees (anonymised), investigating alternative car parking arrangements, train season ticket prices and car sharing routes. The girls will feed back to GVA Grimley staff in March.

Alliance in Partnership

Our caterers, Alliance in Partnership, have provided a link on our website with a direct link to their website where all information about their services can be found.

The links is: School info; catering.

School Trips

We run a considerable number of very enjoyable and successful trips and visits and thank parents for their continued support in returning reply slips and contributions. It is most helpful if these can be returned by the appropriate deadlines.

Review of 'Arabian Nights' Theatre Trip

On a snowy January day, Year Eight were lucky enough to be going to Stratford-Upon-Avon, to see a production of 'Arabian Nights' at the Courtyard Theatre. When we'd reached inside, we made our way up to the Gallery and sat in our seats, all buzzing with excitement. We saw the bright stage below, lit up with small lights. We were all looking forward to a great afternoon.

We enjoyed the prologue as it introduced how Shahrazad tells stories every night to King Shahrayer to save herself from the fate that many other girls had suffered: death. Shahrazad and her sister were intelligent and witty enough to outsmart their father and take control so that they could do what was right, even though their father did not agree.

Most of you probably know the first story of "Ali Baba and the forty thieves". The Royal Shakespeare Company made the story exciting and adventurous as they played the parts extremely well. Perhaps different from other performances, they used their bodies as the cave and part of their costumes to show gold. The actors and actresses used the space tremendously, sometimes even using ladders to climb into the gallery or 'up a tree'.

A part that we found particularly amusing was "The Story of the Little Beggar". With his humorous comedy and clever tricks, this story was definitely one you couldn't take your eyes off! However, the most amusing scene that no-one could stop talking about was when a replacement dummy of the little beggar came falling out of the sky! This left the audience both thrilled and astonished.

We thought that the use of the golden puppet to act out "The Story of Es-Sindibad the Sailor" was a brilliant idea. It was a nice variation from the actors, and the puppeteers were extremely skilful, portraying the delicate movements that Es-Sindibad would have made perfectly. The giant bird was extraordinary – the way the actors came together to make it looked fabulous. Overall, this story was superb.

Probably the most humorous story in Arabian Nights was "How Abu Hassan Broke Wind". In this short story they used a lot of good effects to show the main part of the story – Abu breaking wind! The clever use of lighting created a more dramatic effect as the flashing lights created plenty of humour. The movements of the costume, such as the coat lifting up, added to the effect as it looked very realistic. This story wasn't as detailed as the other stories though the fantastic humour made up for this.

The first story after the interval was "The Story of the Wife Who Wouldn't Eat" and the reason for her poor appetite was quite unexpected and shocking. The actress playing the wife was impressive as she showed very different characteristics by day and by night. She also acted convincingly as a horse!

The final story told to us was "The Envious Sisters". It was a dramatic story that featured two jealous sisters and three courageous children. There were a lot of spectacular visual effects, such as a man on a carpet, being lowered down from the ceiling. Also, they used lots of people to create the singing tree, where the actors sang in harmonies plus a puppet for the singing bird. The actors also used stretchy black rubber to turn themselves into statues which was scary! There were even magical effects such as moving props, including a rolling crystal ball. We thought that this was one of the best stories.

After the play, it seemed the most popular stories performed were "The Little Beggar" and "How Abu Hasan Broke Wind". Both plays included humorous ideas and created a fantastic atmosphere in the theatre. Everyone enjoyed the play, and thank you from Year Eight to the staff who arranged and took us on this exciting trip.

By 8X

Drama and Theatre Studies

Year 11, 12 and 13 Drama and Theatre Studies students also recently went to see a production of "Arabian Nights" at the Courtyard Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon. The production was much enjoyed by all and the magical atmosphere in the theatre has really inspired the GCSE students in their upcoming devised practicals on fairy tales.

After the performance some of the students described it as "Inspirational, five stars!" and "A Magical night that matched the stars outside".

Miss P. Long

Envision

The Envision group has 50 members participating in the programme on a weekly basis.

£500 Prize for water aid ideas:

One of the projects our students have been involved with is Pitch 4 Change. We were one of 5 teams selected to pitch project ideas for improving the local community to a panel of businessmen and women. Our Camp Hill Girls team received some excellent feedback and were successful in gaining £500 and the support of Severn Trent for their water aid event which they have been planning during their weekly meetings and which will take place shortly.

St. Basils Walk 2010

Another envision group are working on a project for the homeless with St. Basil's.

**Successful bid for
£20,000 funding**

Parents with their daughter could also contribute to St. Basil's through this event.

A third envision project has been successful in bidding for £20,000 for Solar Panels for the School supported by funding from Barclays.

Sixth Form Chemistry Lecture at Birmingham University

On Tuesday 26th January at 7 pm, Ms Ridley and I accompanied about 25 of our Year 12 Chemistry students to a West Midlands Chemistry Teacher Centre Lecture at Birmingham University, organised for sixth form chemistry students across the city to enhance the opportunities available to them in school. It was pleasing to see a packed lecture theatre, and a large number of sixth form students turning out on a cold night.

The lecture entitled "Discovering New Medicines: The Role of the Chemist", was given by Dr John Snaith, a lecturer in Organic Chemistry, whose research interests are based around the development of new methodology for synthetic organic chemistry and its use to solve challenging problems in medicine and biology. The research group's current targets include key building blocks in drugs used to treat strokes and HIV.

The lecture shared how chemistry had been particularly important in the isolation and design of many drugs that have been in common use since the beginning of the 20th century including sulphonamide drugs, penicillin and β -lactams and gave us a particularly gruesome idea of how medicine would still be today if key chemists such as Perkin and Flemming had not developed their curiosity!

Tickets for these events are collected in, and at the end of the evening one is drawn out for a prize. Our congratulations went to Neha Sandhu, one of our pupils, who won two books about chemistry.

Dr Rose

Assistant Headteacher

Songs from the Shows

Fame and Mamma Mia

Songs from the Shows will take place on 17th and 18th March at 7.00pm in Camp Hill Girls' school hall.

Further details with regard to ticket sales will be available after half-term.

Theatre in Education: History Theatre review

On Wednesday 3rd February at 10:15am, a very excited Year 7 gathered in the hall in preparation for their journey to the hall of Camp Hill Boys who had kindly invited the year 7 and year 9 to view the Theatre in Education production of the Middle Ages and 'Doomed Youth' a play about World War One.

The year 7 were treated to an hour long series of sketches which covered the myth of Robin Hood, the battle of Hastings including a very long Bayeux Tapestry as well as King John and his wicked or not so wicked ways depending on which characters you believed. Perhaps the most popular sketch was the Medicine sketch where pupils were treated to some of the 'cures' that were common in the Middle Ages. The sight of an actor 'drinking his own urine' in order to overcome the Black Death was only beaten in the yuck stakes by the actor playing the doctor taking the glass and proceeding to drink from it as well, and seemingly enjoying it! Thankfully as the pupils found out in the question and answer session afterwards it was only apple juice in the glass. The question and answer session revealed some excellent Historians in the making, with questions about the structure of medieval society and the church as well as some budding medics keen to find out more about medicine in the Middle Ages. Credit should go to our year 7 pupils for their questions, which had the company impressed with the year 7's knowledge and inquisitiveness.

Year 9 pupils were equally enthused about the prospect of a theatre production on the First World War, which many had just begun to study in class, as they made their way over to the Boys' School in the afternoon. The production took the form of a play about a group of Scientists in the future who had stumbled across a number of artefacts which they knew nothing about. Fortunately they were helped by a machine which could 'visualise' events based on the artefacts. Pupils were treated to different periods of the First World War covering conscription, life in the trenches, women at work, conscientious objectors and the ending of the war. As pupils got to know the characters the production became at times humorous and also very moving as the horrors of the war hit home on the stage. Once again pupils asked insightful and searching questions of the actors after the play and left excited by what they had seen.

Thanks must go to all staff who helped supervise the event and to the History department at the Boys' School for inviting us to the production.

7Y and 9Z

Year 11 Poetry Live

On the 28th January, year 11 had the opportunity to hear a variety of poets speak at Birmingham Town Hall for "GCSE Poetry Live! 2010". We were lucky enough to listen to the national Poet Laureate, Carol Ann Duffy, who many of us are studying for our English literature GCSE. We also had the opportunity to ask almost all of the poets, including Gillian Clarke and Simon Armitage, questions about their work, which was interesting and informative. Peter Buckroyd, a senior examiner, was also on hand with some very useful exam tips, which we will be putting to use later this year. The highlight of the day was a very energetic and enthusiastic performance from John Agard, who not only read some of his poems, but gave inspirational advice for the future, and left with the words "Have a happy life!" Many thanks to Mr Clear and Mrs Perks for organising a very educational and enjoyable day.

Physical Education Department Results and events. January – February 2010**Netball – U16 Girls qualify for the National Finals !**

The U16 girls have continued to excel in netball this half term. On Saturday 30th January, they competed in the Regional Round of the National Schools' Tournament. After a very exciting and nail biting first round, in which they played Bromgrove, Streetly School, Bablake, Hereford Cathedral School, and Ludlow C of E School they qualified for the semi finals. They faced tough competition against Wolverhampton Grammar School but were victorious in winning 14-12 in the final minute. The girls have been working hard to prepare for this tournament and thoroughly deserve their place in the National Schools Finals on Saturday 20th March.

A special thank you to Mrs Paul who has voluntarily given up her time to help coach and train the girls.

Hockey

This term the PE Dept have switched to hockey. The U13 team have been training on a Tuesday evening with Mrs O'Grady and the U12 girls on a Friday lunchtime with Mr Bettison. The U14, U15 and U16 hockey squads have had the luxury of training at Olton and West Warwick Hockey club in Solihull. This has allowed the girls to develop their skills to a higher level and become more familiar with play on an astroturf. On Tuesday 2nd February, the U13 team played in their annual tournament. They played extremely well and after winning two of their matches, they finished 3rd place overall. Keep up the hard work girls.

**Cricket**

Cricket has continued to thrive this half term. As always, the coaches have worked hard to improve and develop the skills of our girls. On Wednesday 27th January, the U13 team took part in the Lady Taverners Indoor Cricket Festival. The girls played exceptionally well and after winning their first game against Bishop Challoner were unlucky not to gain a place in the semi finals. They went on to play a couple of friendly matches and returned to school excited by their achievements. According to their coach David Smith, the girls were a pleasure to take to the tournament. Their behaviour was excellent and they were a credit to the School.



House Swimming Gala

Friday 22nd January was the annual Year 7 & 8 House Swimming Gala. The girls were asked in advance to sign up for the events that they would like to take part in. We were particularly impressed with the number of pupils involved and were thrilled to see everyone work hard and support each other in good team spirit. The swimming gala was an ideal opportunity for the Leadership Academy to put their skills into practice. The girls were invaluable on the day. They managed teams, timed lanes, led the score table and started the races. Well done to all leaders involved. They were reliable, organised and thoroughly committed to the event.

Swimming

On Tuesday 19th January, Miss Chapman took 5 teams to St Martin's School to compete in a friendly swimming gala. This was the first gala for our Year 7 girls and they performed very well. Well done to all the girls involved. Everyone swam very well and there were some excellent times. A special thank you to Becky Smith (School Swimming Captain) who helped to organise the teams for the event.

Rowing

This term we also took part in our first indoor rowing competition. It was a partnership event and we entered a team in Year 9. The four girls Kate Moran, Annabelle Ng, Ria Mayor, Marysia Wagstyl have been training hard on a Tuesday lunch during fitness club to improve their times and transitions. On the day, they worked exceptionally well as a team, performed very well and finished first place in their team event. They enjoyed the event and are keen to take part in similar competitions in the future.

Year 9 Day of Dance

Thursday 28th January was the annual Year 9 Day of Dance. All girls in Year 9 were off timetable for the day and had the opportunity to experience a variety of dance styles. The girls took part in contemporary, street, Bhangra and Cheerleading styles as well as having the opportunity to create their own dance based on a variety of stimuli. The girls thoroughly enjoyed the day and appreciated the opportunity to try something new.



Birmingham City Schools Badminton Championships

I accompanied two Badminton teams to the Birmingham City Schools Championships on Thursday 4th February 2010 at Nechells Leisure Centre. The Key Stage 4 team consisted of five players; Helen Duan, Hattie Wu, Misha Sebastian, Jean Yang and Grace Kneafsey. The Key Stage 3 team consisted again of five players; Shefali Philip, Subi Subramonian, Zoya Ahmed, Gomathy Suresh and Rachna Prem.

It was a day of very high quality competition, sponsored by Maurice Robinson Sports in Kings Heath, and was played on a round robin basis. The Key Stage 4 team played 20 games, won 20 and progressed through to the final, which was against Bournville School. The team played amazingly well and triumphed to win the shield, which was presented by the British Singles Champion. They have now progressed through to the Regional Finals.

The Key Stage 3 team played 20 games, won 20 and again progressed through to the final, which was against Handsworth Girls. Although the girls played extremely well, Handsworth won the final after a hard fought match.

Very well done to all who competed!

Mrs Perks