

The King Edmund School

A Business & Enterprise and Applied Learning Academy

Spring Term 2014 - Jan/Feb - Edition 5

KES NEWS

Sixth Form common room gets a facelift



KES is committed to ensuring students have a modern and comfortable environment in which to work. As part of this commitment, the school has recently invested in new seating in the Sixth Form common room.

To involve the Sixth Form students in the process, and encourage them to take responsibility for their common room, a furniture committee was created. The group consisted of both Year 12 and 13 students who worked with the School Business Manager to look at different styles of seating, colours and fabrics. The final choice was a modular seating system in different colours, in a relaxed and informal layout.

Lauren, a Year 13 student, said of the improvements: “The way the seating is laid out makes us feel more connected—more like one big group rather than small separate groups. The changes have created a nice atmosphere and I really like the vibrant colours. I would recommend attending the KES Sixth Form as you get lots of support and it’s a really nice environment.”

The common room also has its own canteen and eating/study area and students also benefit from their own fully equipped computer room. There are a wide range of A Level and Level 3 BTEC courses available, as well as vocational courses such as Hair and Beauty, and Construction.

If your child is currently in Year 11 and they are interested in attending the Sixth Form at KES, even if they do not currently attend KES, it’s not too late to apply. Please contact Jenni Griffiths on 01702 545771 or email her at jennigriffiths@kes.essex.sch.uk for further information.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE



Jonathan Osborn, Headteacher

The term from January through to Easter is in many ways the most important part of the school year. The Autumn Term is full of new beginnings and ends with Christmas events and celebrations. The Summer Term holds the GCSE and A Level exams for many students. However, it is the Spring Term where much vital work has to be done if students are to do excel in their exams and finish the year well.

This is true not only for the students Years 11, 12 and 13, but for the younger students as well.

We are currently working hard to help students in all years understand the demands of exams and what they need to do to prepare well. We find that many students simply do not plan enough time to revise and prepare for exams. Consequently, they do not reach their potential and this can be a real block to further achievement. I will be writing to Year 11 parents in particular before half term to update them on what needs to be done between now and the exams and how they can help their child be fully prepared. I have already spoken to students in assembly and identified a number of key issues they now need to focus on.

Absolutely central to this is to organise their time to revise. This is a process that should start now. Many students across the country will be planning to complete at least two hours of revision per day between now and the exams, with more at weekends. Of course, the benefit of doing this is that students who prepare well almost always reach their potential in the exams and this is what we want for every single one of our students. It is always a huge help when parents are able to support their children and the school in ensuring revision gets done.

Another key area that I want to discuss here is how we go about recruiting new teaching staff. As you will know if you work in education, there are real challenges across the whole country in recruiting teachers. Things are no different across Essex schools with English, Maths and Science teachers in very short supply. Over the course of the last two years this has affected us in our Science faculty. We have been working hard over that time to strengthen the team in Science and have appointed Miss Clubb as an Assistant Head who teaches Science and Mr Osei-Poku as Head of Faculty. I am very pleased to say that we have also appointed a further three Science teachers. One will start after Easter and the other two will join KES in July. This is an excellent result for us as a school and gives us an opportunity to continue to develop our work in Science.

A key part of what we do in recruiting new staff is that we hold Open Mornings for teachers who may be looking for either their first job or a fresh challenge. These Open Mornings give teachers an opportunity to find out about the school, what sort of a place it is to work in and what we can offer them. At the moment we are looking to strengthen our teams in both English and Maths; if you know any teachers who would be a good addition to the KES teaching team, and who teach either English or Maths, would you please ask them to contact the school and speak to Mrs Schofield, our HR Manager, who will then arrange for them to visit the school on one of our Open Mornings.

Finally, I would like to remind you that rehearsals are currently underway for this year's school production—*Oliver*. Parts have been cast and there is much hard work being done to prepare what is a fairly demanding musical. Performances will take place during the week beginning Monday 31 March. I do hope many of you will be able to join us and enjoy one of the highlights of our school year.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE



**Sue Nichol, Deputy Head,
Pastoral and day to day**

Holidays in term time

I need to make all parents aware that the recent changes in government rules regarding children being taken out of school for holidays are being enforced very strictly.

Employers restricting the times when employees can take time off during the summer months can no longer be considered as extenuating circumstances; Essex Education Welfare Service (EWS) have made it very clear to me that holidays can be taken at other times of the year, for example at Easter, without a child missing school.

We are required to report any child who misses school for holiday purposes to EWS and they are being very proactive in following the government initiative through and imposing fines on parents. These fines can mount up very quickly:

- £60 per parent per child if paid within 21 days
- If unpaid this rises to £120 per parent per child to be paid within a further seven days
- This means that a couple with three children would face an initial fine of £360
- If not paid within time the fine would increase to £720
- If the fine remains unpaid, court proceedings would follow

In the case of separated parents, we had a case where the father took the child on holiday, but the mother was fined as well. The reasoning given for this was that as the child lives with the mother and she has responsibility for schooling, she should not have allowed the child to go on holiday.

I think this illustrates just how intent the government is on discouraging parents from taking their children out of school in term time. We do not wish to work in conflict with parents, but please be aware that we can no longer consider requests for holidays apart from in the most exceptional of personal circumstances; claiming that a trip is for educational purposes cannot be accepted, however educational the trip might be. I would also caution parents against taking their children away and claiming they are ill; we will always request medical evidence from a doctor or consultant. A suntan is generally a clear indication that a holiday has been taken and, furthermore, children talk and it puts parents in an even more difficult position when they are found out.

KES Key Dates for parents — 2013–2014

All Years

Open Evening — Wednesday 25 September

Late start after Open Evening — 10.15am,

Thursday 26 September

Awards Evening Cliffs Pavilion — Tuesday 8 July

Sports Day at Garon Park — Tuesday 15 July

Year 7

Introduction's Evening — Wednesday 16 October

Parent Teacher Consultation Meeting — Wednesday 26 March

Internal Exams — Monday 2 to Friday 6 June

Review Day — Monday 30 June

Enterprise Week — Tuesday 1 to Friday 4 July

Year 8

Parent Teacher Consultation Meeting —

Wednesday 15 January

Internal Exams — Monday 16 to Friday 20 June

Enterprise Week — Tuesday 1 to Friday 4 July

Year 9

Internal Exams x1 — Monday 25 to Friday 29 November

Options Information Evening — Wednesday 29 January

Parent Teacher Consultation Meeting —

Wednesday 5 February

Internal Exams x2 — Monday 28 April to Thursday 8 May

Work Experience Parent Information Evening —

Tuesday 24 June

Review Day — Monday 30 June

Enterprise Week — Tuesday 1 to Friday 4 July

Year 10

Internal Exams x1 — Monday 6 to Friday 17 January

Work Experience — Monday 3 to Friday 14 February

Parent Teacher Consultation Meeting — Wednesday 5 March

Internal Exams x2 — Monday 28 April to Friday 9 May

Review Day — Monday 30 June

Enterprise Week — Tuesday 1 to Friday 4 July

Year 11

Sixth Form Open Evening — Wednesday 9 October

Parent Teacher Consultation Meeting —

Wednesday 13 November

Internal Mock Exams — Monday 9 to Friday 20 December

Internal Mock Exams — Monday 10 to Tuesday 18 March

External Exams — period starts Monday 12 May

Year 11 Prom — Friday 27 June

Year 12

Parent Teacher Consultation Meeting —

Wednesday 27 November

Internal Mock Exams — Monday 6 to Friday 17 January

Enterprise Week — Tuesday 1 to Friday 4 July

External Exams — Monday 12 May to Friday 6 June

Year 13

Parent Teacher Consultation Meeting —

Wednesday 27 November

Internal Mock Exams — Monday 9 to Friday 20 December

External Exams — period starts Monday 9 June

Leavers' Meal — Friday 20 June

HEADS OF YEAR UPDATE



Year 7

I hope you all had a restful Christmas holidays and enjoyed the break.

Year 7 have made an impressive start to the New Year. Many have received credit certificates, and congratulations go to Leonie James on being the first Year 7 student to receive a Bronze Enterprise Badge; hopefully she will be the first of many. I hope that every Year 7 will have earned their pin badges by the end of this academic year.

The students continue to excel in the various sports clubs that are on offer. A special mention must go to the Year 7 hockey teams—the A team won 2–0 and the B team won 4–0 against the Fitzwimarc School.

We have introduced the new House system to Year 7 this term; this was trialled with Year 9 last term and the Year 9 students loved the competition. One lucky student even won an iPad mini. Hopefully the Year 7 students will embrace it and be in with a chance to win an iPad mini for themselves.

Louise Butler, Acting Head of Year 7



Year 8

This term has been very busy for Year 8 students. They have taken part in the 'Motivate Year 8' course and I would like to thank them for the way in which they conducted themselves. Gordon Sparke was very complimentary about the students. I thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and saw some excellent examples of students working well as a team.

The recent parent consultation evening was a very busy night and I was pleased to see so many parents and students. The house system has also been introduced to Year 8 students and I cannot wait to find out the winner of the iPad mini. Good luck Year 8 and let the collection of points begin!

Finally, at the time of writing this Joseph Le Fevre and his family are taking part in Europe's dog sled race again. On behalf of the year group I would like to wish him the best of luck!

Natasha Jenkins, Head of Year 8



Year 9

As we approach the halfway point in the year, Year 9 students are now beginning to focus on the transfer process through to Key Stage 4. The students received their option booklets recently and should have made their choices by now. It was a pleasure meeting so many of you at the recent options information and parent consultation evenings and I hope that these events helped you and the students to make the right decisions for them as individuals.

Recently I also had the pleasure of awarding 126 certificates to Year 9 students in recognition of their academic achievements. 62 certificates were awarded to students who have consistently worked above their subject target grade for more than one term. 64 certificates were awarded to students who have consistently worked at the top end of the target grade for more than one term. These students have now had their target grades increased and I hope they will continue to progress towards these new goals.

Delia Webster, Head of Year 9



Year 10

By now the students will have received their mock exam results and hopefully they brought good news. It is important that the students reflect on this process and learn from the experience. They have now been given different revision techniques to better prepare them for exams in the future. Also I hope the students are enjoying or enjoyed their work experience placement and it gives them extra motivation to get better qualifications.

Tom Hickey, Head of Year 10

HEADS OF YEAR UPDATE



Year 11

Year 11 recently received their mock grades in a dress rehearsal for August. There were some happy people but unfortunately for some it was a serious wake-up call as to how much work they will need to put in to fulfil their potential next summer.

Every student in Year 11 should have had a career interview thanks to Nicola Jones and Mrs Griffiths, so they should have a clear idea about where they would like to be in September.

The results day was a real eye opener for those who have been given specific grades to get onto the college place they would like, or those who are hoping to return to our Sixth Form. It is clear that some students are doing really well and are on track and are using the opportunities that staff are giving them to improve their controlled assessment, for example extra help on a Saturday morning. Students need to design their revision programme now and to think back to the revision strategies Tim Foot gave them last year, or to use the podcasts that Mr Haynes showed them in assembly.

Students will be faced with another set of mock exams at the end of March to again prepare them for their final exams in May. It is vital that you reinforce at home the importance of completing homework to a high standard. The work set by staff can be checked on Show my Homework. For further information on Show my Homework please see our website. Students will do well in their exams if they take advantage of all the opportunities available to them and they put the work in.

Finally, I ask you to continue to check our school website where exam dates/timetables and key pieces of information will be posted. The hard work that your child puts in now and the support that you can provide will be worth it when they open the envelope for real in August.

Emma Cooke, Head of Year 11

Sixth Form

The Sixth Form has started the Spring Term with the benefit of a revamped common room. Students have been fortunate enough to be provided with new seating areas which are brightly coloured and comfortable for relaxation. We are sure that students will benefit from the opportunity to spend their time in a restful environment which can only enhance their work at KES.

Students have recently taken part in the 'Review of Targets' session which has provided them with the opportunity to reflect on their progress so far and the targets that they previously set themselves. Some of the students have now received the results from their recent mock exams and we hope that the review session provided them with an opportunity to plan and prepare for their forthcoming exams in May and June.

We have been delighted with the response from the Sixth Form students who have put themselves forward as House Leaders for the newly revamped House system which is currently being rolled out to the whole school. We are sure that the students will be exemplary role models for the school and will lead their Houses to success.

Finally, it is the time of year again when the Sixth Form take responsibility for preparing events to raise money for 'Sports Relief' which takes place on Friday 21 March. Sponsored walks and non-uniform days are being proposed but watch this space for confirmation of our exciting fundraising events.



**Kate Booker,
Head of Year 12**



**Julie Green,
Head of Year 13**

FACULTY FOCUS ON CREATIVE ARTS

The past term has been a very busy one. Students working within the Creative Arts faculty have been working hard in lessons and outside the classroom. The Performing Arts students have been working exceptionally hard helping direct and manage the different productions.

We are lucky to have such enthusiastic students working with us – from KS3 to A Level, students participate in and support all of the different activities that are on offer. The Art department was very pleased to receive over 600 entries for the Christmas card competition. Amber Whiting's winning design was beautiful and we were proud for her piece to represent the school. At present there is also a KS3 House Drama competition which Mrs Quinn is organising. The determination and competitiveness between the different houses is fun to see and it is great that we can include our events in the new House system.

Rehearsals have already started for the school production of *Oliver* with the cast committing many hours. It is always lovely to see the different year groups working together and sharing their knowledge. *Oliver* is being performed at the beginning of April and I do hope that you can come and support the event.

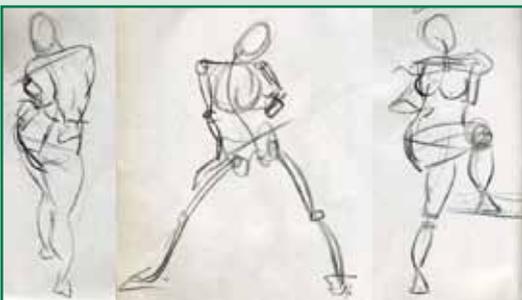
Over the next couple of months there will be a number of trips that will enhance the students' learning. Year 10 and 11 Drama students are visiting the theatre to support their coursework, plus Art GCSE will be organising different trips to London to help support the students' exam preparation. The school singing group is excited about their May trip to Disneyland and their singing performances are always well received in Paris.

Challenging and promoting our gifted students is always at the forefront of our faculty's beliefs. We were very pleased to hear that Anthony, in Year 7, recently passed his NATD (National Association of Dance) exams for Ballroom and Latin American Dancing, and we are very proud of Joshua, in Year 9, winning a National Photography competition. In February a select group of gifted and talented students will spend a day working at Tate Britain in London. 12 Year 10 Art students have been selected to undertake a day's workshop, developing their skills and working with commercial artists. I am very excited to see the work that they produce.



Within the faculty we have spent time discussing with the Year 11 students their recent mock GCSE exam grades and how they can prepare for their real exams. All students have been given structured guidance and it is imperative that they take advantage of all the help that is available to them. After-school support clubs are available in each of the faculty subjects and we will also be providing Easter support sessions. We hope that many of the GCSE and A Level students will make the most of this time to help them reach their potential.

Janine Foakes, Head of Creative Arts



Life drawing classes

Year 12 and 13 Art students recently attended after-school life drawing sessions at Leigh-on-Sea Adult Community College, along with a number of parents.

The classes have been extremely beneficial to their coursework and helped them to gain valuable experience, skills and confidence in an essential area of the subject. The drawing classes were very constructive and the students thoroughly enjoyed the new challenges they brought.

Year 10 Art exams

Year 10 GCSE students are given the opportunity to undertake a series of two exams during the year.

During the first five-hour exam, the students produced some beautiful pieces of work. Their behaviour was exemplary and they all worked hard to meet their potential.

We look forward to seeing the work they produce in the second round of exams.



FACULTY FOCUS ON CREATIVE ARTS

Artist in residence: Year 13 students have a taste of the publishing world

During January the well known Author and Illustrator Susie Hodge spent the day with the Year 13 Art students.

Hodge's book *Why Your Five Year Old Could Not Have Done That* was the Independent's art book of the year 2013.



It was a great opportunity for the students to understand the commercial world of art and publishing. Susie spent valuable time advising and guiding the students on their Personal Study. Their Personal Study is an integral part of their A2 coursework and is a very detailed and heavily investigated written project.

The students thoroughly enjoyed sharing their thoughts and ideas with Susie and produced some great work by the end of the day.

GCSE Dance 'Set Dance' workshop

Year 11 GCSE Dance students recently enjoyed a workshop led by an AQA examiner.

The workshop was held to help them to learn their 'Set Dance' by the examinations board.

All students' behaviour was professional and the desire to learn was fantastic. It was a very worthwhile experience.



Art club's scrapbook project

This school year students have been developing their own scrapbooks in Art club.

They have been working on a new page each week and have focused on special days and events. Last term's scrapbook included pages on Halloween, Guy Fawkes Night, Remembrance Day and Christmas. Students also designed front covers for their books.

Students have started this term with a new scrapbook of events that will happen this year. They started with a New Year's resolutions page and then moved on to look at significant days in January such as Martin Luther King Day and Chinese New Year.

Art club is for Year 7, 8 and 9 students and is on every Tuesday from 2.30-3.30pm with Mrs Dougherty in D4. New members are always welcome.



Links with established artists

At A Level students are encouraged to research current artists. As part of her recent AS Art mock exam Mia was influenced by the work of Nick Lord who recently won the televised series of Sky's National Portrait Award.

Mia contacted Mr Lord asking for his help and guidance. He has been most impressed with Mia's work and she is hoping to visit his studio to gain further experience.

FACULTY FOCUS ON CREATIVE ARTS

Arts Award

Arts Award has inspired the students at KES to develop their arts and leadership talents: it's creative, valuable and accessible to all year groups.

The mission this year is to achieve two gold awards with more students entered in all categories. The Creative Arts faculty wants to deepen their engagement within the arts, build creative and leadership skills and achieve a national qualification.

Many students have started their training already by learning new art forms including performing arts, visual arts, literature, media and multimedia. The award builds confidence, helps young people to enjoy cultural activities, and prepares them for further education or employment.

Students have started to pass on their skills by teaching others what they have learnt, as this completes the last section of the award. Well done to all Arts Award students.



Advanced Media club

The Advanced Media club has just begun, allowing KS5 Media students a chance to experience university-style seminars, and to explore a variety of Media-related debates and texts.

The first session kicked off with a lively discussion about the representation of men, women and the working class in national newspapers. Some interesting points were raised, and the experience suggested some exciting debates were coming up in future sessions. Over the coming weeks, set readings and discussions will be based around subjects as diverse as disco music, feminism in horror films, internet culture and how to enjoy terrible films.

Debating these readings will give students a greater appreciation and enthusiasm for film, television and music, and will prove invaluable experience for those considering attending university.



Outstanding Christmas homework from Year 7

Year 7 students were set the very exciting task of designing or creating a gingerbread house for their Christmas holiday homework.

All of the students were really enthusiastic about completing this assignment and the results of all their hard work were amazing.



Performing Arts workshop

Year 12 and 13 Performing Arts students enjoyed a workshop led by two dancers from the Jasmin Vardimon Company.

The workshop was a full day of physical movement, creativity and energy. The students learnt pieces of repertoire from the company's recent production of *Justitia*, which students had previous been to the theatre to see. The movement was fiercely athletic and intricately detailed. The workshop not only challenged students in their movement technique but also their choreographic creativity.

The two dancers from the company were hugely inspirational and provided details on their training routes into Performing Arts, their experiences of auditioning and answered any questions that our students had. All students involved thoroughly enjoyed this experience and were very exhausted from the effort and physicality they applied.



FACULTY FOCUS ON LANGUAGES

English

KS3 English

Last term, Year 9 were treated to a Gothic performance from a one-man show. Using merely a spooky set and sounds effects, he created a creepy Gothic atmosphere in the hall and recited two Gothic stories: *The Red Room* (H.G.Wells) and *The Tell-Tale Heart* (Edgar Allen Poe), the latter of which was used by Year 9 students in their end-of-term assessment.

Year 8 students have also been getting imaginative in lessons, learning the techniques of successful creative writing for their end-of-term assessments. Many of the stories written saw the students gain their end-of-year target levels, which was a fantastic achievement so early in the school year.

During their first term at KES, every member of Year 7 completed a speaking and listening assessment, where they talked 'all about me'. Since then, they have read *Boy* (Roald Dahl) and made comparisons between a variety of texts.

Years 7, 8 and 9 are all now studying poetry this term.

KS4 English

Coursework update

Students in Year 11 have made fantastic progress recently on their IGCSE English Language coursework as we continue to work hard to meet our target that all students in Year 11 will go into the summer exam series with coursework that meets or exceeds their target grades.

We are currently in the process of working with selected students who need to improve or develop their coursework on Saturday mornings. We have been very impressed by the number of students who have attended these sessions, showing great commitment to their work and to their results this summer.

Students in Year 10 will shortly begin work on their IGCSE English Literature coursework. This will involve revisiting *Of Mice and Men*, a text we studied earlier in the year, and comparing it with a selection of poems on conflict.

Year 11 revision guides

Students in Year 11 are currently studying two texts for the GCSE English Literature exams this summer, *An Inspector Calls* (J.B.Priestley) and *Animal Farm* (George Orwell). We have had several enquiries about revision guides and would like to recommend the York Notes for GCSE series. The ISBNs for these two books are 978-1408248737 and 978-1408270028. Both of these books are currently selling for less than £5 on www.amazon.co.uk.

Year 11 Speaking and Listening

In March, all students in Year 11 will be sitting their Speaking and Listening assessment. This is a compulsory element of the IGCSE English Language course which is worth 20% of the final grade.

Each student will need to prepare a short talk on a topic of their choice which will then be followed by a discussion on the topic with the teacher assessor. Students will complete these assessments on a one-to-one basis with a teacher assessor and will not be required to speak in front of a class or group of their peers. Each student will be given an appointment for their assessment. Given that we have well over 250 students to assess, it is vital that students are organised and come to their appointment on time. More information on what students need to do and their appointment times will follow in due course.

KS5 English Literature Twitter

A Twitter account has been set up for all KS5 English Literature students. The account, @KES_EnglishLit, will be used to share interesting Tweets and links with students about the texts we are studying, as well as revision tips and reminders. Students that study English Literature in the Sixth Form need to see me for more information.

Modern Foreign Languages

Year 7 Merits/House points

Mr Williams has been very pleased with the amount of merits and House points that have been awarded to Year 7 students in the past few weeks of the new term. This reflects the very positive attitude and genuine enthusiasm shown by Year 7 who are obviously enjoying learning French in a new school.

Year 8 and 9 House competition

Response to the new House competition in Years 8 and 9 has also been encouraging. Year 8 and 9 students are receiving more House points which shows their levels of motivation and a renewed interest in improving their performance in French.

Year 8 and 9 trip to Paris – June 2014

A polite reminder for parents of students attending the residential trip to Paris in June that the final payment is due by 21 March 2014. Last year's trip was a great success and we hope that our students this year will enjoy their experience of French culture, the sights of Paris and the opportunity to practise their French.

Pen pal letters

Students in Years 8 and 9 have been linked with students at two schools in France and have been able to exchange letters and photos. Our students have been very eager to take part in this scheme and this has been evident in their willingness to take part and to send off their letters so far. Long may these new friendships last!



Tim Morgan, Head of Languages

WOMEN IN BUSINESS ENTERPRISE DAY

The Year 9 girls recently took part in a Women in Business Enterprise Day. The event was held to try to raise awareness of the more business-focused subjects available as there is currently a low uptake in Year 12 of subjects like Economics, Mathematics, and Personal Finance by girls. Hopefully by showing them how these subjects can help women achieve a career in business the number of girls taking these subjects in the Sixth Form will increase.

Three local female business guests each gave an insight into their own careers and businesses.

Maria White, from Mia Elizabeth bespoke dressmakers in Rochford, spoke of her personal career history. Maria went to college in Southend and then on to study for her degree in Fashion and Design at the University of East London. She then worked for several companies before starting her own business alongside her mother. Maria encouraged students to seize voluntary opportunities within their areas of interest. Being dyslexic herself and having found a different way of learning, Maria told the students to pursue a career in an area that they enjoy and not let anything hold them back.

Wendy Graham is the Global Powertrain Manager at Ford. Wendy studied Maths and Science at A Level as she wanted to do something different from the subjects usually selected by her peers. While on a work placement she decided to select an Engineering Degree with Japanese at Cardiff University and was the only female in her class. This degree allowed Wendy to travel to Japan and work with Panasonic on a work placement. Upon graduating Wendy joined Ford in Dagenham, once again the first female engineer to work for the company. She progressed through the company from Paintshop Manager to Engineering Manager for Europe and to her current role as Global Powertrain Manager. Wendy discussed the importance of women in Engineering and the value of subjects such as Maths and Physics, particularly in the UK. Only 11% of English engineers are female, compared to 40% in China and 58% in Russia.

Jenny Drewitt works at Debenhams as the Selling Support Manager. She gave an overview of her career and how she has ended up being responsible for 30 staff at the store and a payroll budget of £140k per month. Having had experience in recruiting people Jenny highlighted that any experience students can get whether voluntary or paid sets them apart from other candidates who don't have any. She advised that employers don't just look at your grades but what you do outside of school too; this enables the store to recruit well rounded individuals and create an effective workforce.

The students were then given a challenge: to make bleach, bread, a kettle, a bottle of lemonade and a bottle of shampoo attractive for Valentine's Day. The challenge allowed the students to exercise the skills required by employers, such as communication, teamwork, creativity, initiative, leadership and delegation.

Wendy Graham said of the students: "The infectious enthusiasm and confidence of the girls was both incredible and inspiring. The quality of the presentations and the breadth of scope covered from product design, packaging, marketing, graphics and the ability to think on their feet when questioned was outstanding. The opportunity to participate at such an event at 14 is amazing and given the outputs there is great hope for the future businesses that employ these girls!"

The overall winners were the Kettlers who came up with a heart-shaped kettle. They thought a pot of tea warms your heart and relates to Valentine's Day. Chelsea said taking part in the day had built her confidence and that she is now thinking about taking Business Studies in Year 10. Chloe said it was interesting to hear how the female business guests had ended up doing the jobs they were doing. The winning team was made up of Chelsea, Danielle, Rosie, Cassidy, Chloe and Jessica and the students who stood out on the day overall were Jessica and Roxy.



LATEST NEWS

Year 9 House competition winners

Well done to the four students who won our recent Year 9 House competition.

The competition was a trial for a new House system which is currently being rolled out across the whole school.

To win the competition students had to receive House points which were awarded for effort, progress, homework, independence and attendance.

Nima was the grand prize winner and received an iPad mini. Chloe was the top Roman, Jessica was the top Viking and Chelsea was the top Saxon and they each received an iPod.

The Saxons came overall top with 1,515 points, the Vikings came second with 1,459 points and the Romans came third with 1,385 points.



Students perform at awards ceremony

Last November, five Sixth Form students from KES performed at County Hall in Chelmsford for the Recognition of Quality of Awards.

They provided light entertainment for officials from Essex County Council and staff from schools across the county.

Shona, Matthew, Charlie, Jasmine and Alex were a credit to the school and performed hits such as 'Nothing Else Matters' and '500 Miles' to an appreciative audience. The students both planned the pieces they were to play and also rehearsed them themselves, showing both dedication and self-motivation.

In recognition of their hard work, both planning their pieces and performing them, all five students received a certificate to put into their Record of Achievement and a voucher.



Year 10 mock interview day

In preparation for their work experience, Year 10 students recently took part in a mock interview day.

They attended school dressed in formal business clothes and covered a variety of topics including CV writing, letter writing, body language and appropriate conduct during an interview. The students were then interviewed individually by a variety of local business guests.

Steve from CNH said he was very impressed with the standard of the boys he interviewed and that all the students were very polite. Angela from Barclays said that she found interviewing our students very inspiring and that they exceeded her expectations. Dominic from RBS thought the students were well prepared, had a mature approach, and all acted very professionally.

Two of the students, Claire and Alex, both said it helped them feel more confident about attending a real interview now that they know what to expect.



LATEST NEWS



Year 8 motivation course

During January, Year 8 students took part in a 'Motivate Year 8' course run by Bright Futures.

During their sessions the students completed various activities designed to enhance their team work, problem solving and communication skills.

They tackled each task expertly and they worked together very well. In particular, the 'egg catching' activity was very competitive. The students had to design an 'egg catcher' together and then help one designated team member line up the egg with the catcher before dropping it off the stage—unfortunately many eggs were broken but a good number did survive!

Hopefully the students will apply the same motivation and determination to their studies as they did during the course. Option choices are only a year away and they need to remember that the hard work they put in now will help them in every future step they take through their education.

Congratulations to all of them.

Lead cast for 2014 school musical named

Students from all year groups have recently taken part in auditions for this year's musical production of *Oliver*.

Congratulations go to Evan Cook in Year 8 who will be Oliver, Layla Geary in Year 7 who will be the Artful Dodger, Paige Amber in Year 13 who will be Nancy, Tom Johnson in Year 10 who will be Fagin, Albi Dawkins in Year 13 who will be Bill Sykes and Shona Johnson in Year 13 who will be Mr Bumble. They will be supported by another 50 students who will also be performing in the Chorus.

Rehearsals are now underway and students and staff are looking forward to inviting parents and friends of the community to come and see the results of all their hard work in April when the production will be running for three nights.

Students achieve third place in street dance competition

Congratulations go to a group of extremely talented students who recently competed in a Street Dance competition called 'That's Showbiz' in Blackpool.

14 dance groups entered the competition and the KES students achieved third place. This is a fantastic result and speaks volumes for all their hard work and effort. A huge congratulations and well done to Chloe, Charlotte, Thomas, Jodie, Rebecca and Jordan.



Student passes Ballroom dance exams

Well done to Anthony, a Year 7 student who recently passed his NATD (National Association of Dance) exams for Ballroom and Latin American Dancing.

He was highly commended in all of his ten dances and received Bronze and Silver awards. He is also third for his age group in the UK, Ireland and Portugal and has danced at Blackpool Winter Gardens.



Students involved in BBC's Big Questions debate

Well done to Salome Goka and Rebecca Withams, two Sociology students in Year 13, for representing the school on the BBC's Big Questions, held at Queen Mary University in London.

They were involved in a debate about human rights, 'Should human rights always outweigh religious rights?' The students were lucky enough to have the opportunity to listen to a range of opinions and meet a variety of experts.

LATEST NEWS

The Career Academy programme

KES believes that work related learning is a valuable part of a student's development, which is why the school runs the Career Academy programme.

Through the programme students have the opportunity to listen to talks from business professionals, take part in internships, visit places of work and get involved in guru lectures.

Internships required for this summer

KES is currently looking for seven six-week paid internships for this summer.

If you, your company, or someone you know might be able to provide one or more of these internships then please contact Wendy Maslen on 01702 545771, extension 3219, or email her at wendymaslen@kes.essex.sch.uk.

Alternatively, if you would like to become a partner in business, are in a position to give a guru lecture, or provide a visit to your place of work then please also contact Wendy.

Partners in Business

One of the Year 13 Career Academy students, Hannah, was asked by Career Academies UK to give a presentation to around 80 business guests at the prestigious 'The Photographers Gallery' in Ramillies Street, London.

The event was organised as a briefing for business guests on what to expect as a Partner in Business. Rebecca Marriot, Operations Analyst at HSBC, was one of the Partners that talked about their experiences of being a Partner, while Hannah spoke of her experience as a student in the programme.

Hannah is pictured with Anne Spackman, the Executive Director of Career Academies UK.



As part of their Career Academy programme experience, six students have now been matched to their Partners in Business.

The students and their Partner will meet regularly over the next 18 months. The first meeting took place in school, the next meeting will take place at the Partner's place of work.

The Partner assists with CV writing, internship application forms, UCAS statements and references, as well as sharing knowledge and best practice in the roles they do.

The programme still has a requirement for several more Partners in Business so if you would like to know more please contact Wendy Maslen.



Jack Petchey Achievement Award winners

Well done to the eight students who received a Jack Petchey Achievement Award in December.

Last year's winners attended the Jack Petchey Achievement Awards Presentation at the Paddocks in Canvey Island, where they were each presented with a medallion.

The students who received an award were: Becky, Chris, Tayla, Chloe, Emily, Chelsea, Olivia, Dione and Victoria.

Congratulations also go to Charlie in Year 11, who has been chosen as the winner for the award for January. Charlie has really worked hard to work through some difficulties and is now mentoring other students. She has made considerable progress—well done.

If you would like to nominate any student at KES to be considered for this award, please send an email to emmacooke@kes.essex.sch.uk or complete a nomination form available from student reception.



INFORMATION

Library

The library is very proud of its recent makeover to the stairway leading up to it. Each step features a graphic highlighting the name of a famous book and its author.

The overall winner of the library's Poetry competition and the student who received the Kindle e-reader was Lily Lowe in 9CE. The winners of £10 Waterstones vouchers were Leonie James in 7BE, George Phillips in 8BS, Sophie Gibbons in 9AS, Victoria Humphries in 11AK and Rachel Manning in 13I. Well done to everyone who entered.

This term's competition is '2013 in Pictures'. Students are required to look at the pictures of events that took place during 2013 that are on the notice board opposite the library doors. On a piece of paper they need to write the numbers 1 to 20 and against the corresponding number answer the question/s which are attached to the picture. Students need to write their name and tutor group on their entry and hand it to Mrs O'Neill (school Librarian) by Friday 28 February 2014. All correct entries will be put into a 'hat' for a prize draw. The first prize is again a Kindle e-reader.

Chess club has now started up again after school on a Monday with the first stage of 'The Delancey UK Schools Chess Challenge 2014'. All students are welcome to attend chess club regardless of their level of expertise.

Please encourage students to return any overdue library books. If a student has lost their book they are required to pay for the replacement.

Please encourage your child to read for at least 20 minutes a day.

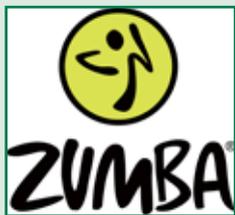
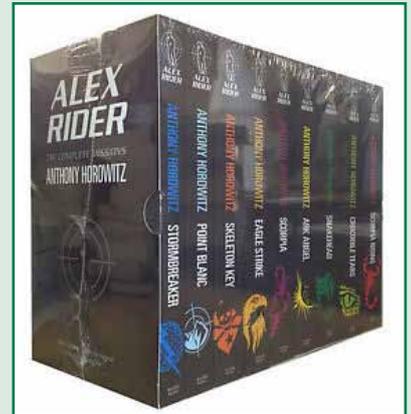


Reading Renaissance competition winner

Last term the Reading Renaissance team ran a competition to win a set of Anthony Horowitz books.

The books are action thrillers from the Alex Rider series. The main protagonist is a teenage boy, Alex Rider, who is the hero of the books and the evil villains are reminiscent of some of the James Bond baddies. More details of the books can be found on www.anthonhorowitz.com.

To enter, students had to read books from this series and then take a quiz on them from the Renaissance computer program. They then put their printed results (TOPS Report) in the competition box kept in the library. The prize draw revealed the winner to be Shay Humphrey in Year 9.



Zumba comes to KES!

Zumba classes are held every Wednesday from 6 to 7pm in the Drama Studio.

The classes are suitable for all levels of fitness and are £5 a session.

Classes are run by Lisa Trundle, a friendly and energetic fitness instructor who is qualified in Zumba, Fit Steps, Spin and Aerobics.

Year 7 Readathon

Year 7 students will be taking part in Readathon again this year which will run for six weeks from 3 February until 14 March.

Readathon is the largest sponsored reading event in the UK and each year KES students are given the opportunity to take part in raising money for seriously ill children and at the same time encouraging them to read even more. More information can be found on www.readathon.org.

Please look out for the letter your child will be bringing home in February regarding Readathon.



Beauty Treatments & Hair Services

Hair & Beauty
The King Edmund School
Training Salon



Available to all members of the community
OPEN DAILY FROM 8.30AM TO 2.00PM

To make an appointment, or to find out more about our services,
please visit www.kes.essex.sch.uk, call **01702 545771**, ext **3238**
and **3263**, or send an email to hair_beauty@kes.essex.sch.uk

The King Edmund School Hair and Beauty Training Salon, Vaughan Close, Rochford, Essex SS4 1TL

While every care will be taken and students are fully supervised, clients should be aware that all services are provided by students undergoing training. Registered company 7633375 – The King Edmund School.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES AT KES

Adult Education courses at KES are open to all, very reasonably priced, with free refreshments provided for each class. Examples of the classes available are:

Computer classes for absolute beginners and improvers • Internet and email courses

Tablet Workshops – make the most of your tablet

Laptop Courses – bring your own laptop and learn how to master your machine

Basic photo editing • Photoshop • Digital photography

ECDL (for an IT qualification) • ECDL Advanced in Word processing (equivalent to A Level)

Sage – Computerised accounts • C&G Manual bookkeeping

Yoga • Art • Zumba (pay on the door available)

Dressmaking and patterncutting • Patchwork and quilting

New – Woodturning for beginners • Coming soon – Upholstery for beginners



Classes are held during the day and evening. Learners are enrolled on a term-by-term basis.
The **deadline for next term's courses is 22 April 2014**, with places allocated on a first come basis.

So don't delay – enrol today!

For further information or to enrol, please call Jayn Warner or Claire Elliott on **01702 545771**, email jaynwarner@kes.essex.sch.uk or visit www.kes.essex.sch.uk for course content and to download an enrolment pack. Packs can also be collected in person from the reception area of the school. If you wish to speak to someone out of school hours, please contact Claire Elliott on **07734 347073** for an informal chat.