

BEST EVER GCSE RESULTS



We are immensely pleased to announce that we have achieved our best ever GCSE results this year.

54% of students gained five or more A*-C grades, including English and Mathematics. We are particularly pleased that over 70% of our students achieved at least a grade C in these two subjects.

With the increase in difficulty of GCSEs over the past few years, our students have risen to the challenge; they have worked hard, with the help of their teachers, to obtain good grades. Outstanding students include Aisling and Ami with ten A*/A grades, Levi with eight and Callum with seven. Many of our students have returned to KES in the Sixth Form to continue to build on their success.

Our recent OFSTED inspection highlighted the good work that the school is doing to help students reach their potential, and we believe that our results confirm the progress we have made.

A record number of KES Sixth Form students also achieved excellent exam results this year, and for the fourth year running results have improved on the school's previous performance. This is against the backdrop of a decrease in national figures. Students overall pass rates are well above the national figures, at 99.2%, with almost half at grades A*-B. We are proud to celebrate the success of 73 students who have gained university places, including at the prestigious Cambridge University. Sophie will take up her place at Cambridge to read Modern and Medieval Languages. 85% of the year group, compared to around 50% nationally, are going on to university.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE



Jonathan Osborn, Headteacher

Welcome back to all KES 'old hands' and welcome to new students, parents and members of staff that have joined us this year. The year is now well underway and it has been really pleasing to see how new KES students have settled in. This has been with the minimum

of fuss; Year 7 in particular have embraced the new opportunities on offer at KES and have impressed us with their attitude to learning and their participation in enrichment activities after school. We recently held our Year 7 Introductions Evening and Year 7 students did a super job of introducing their parents to their teachers. As part of the evening we always ask parents for their views on how things are going and one of the aspects of feedback we heard time after time was how pleased parents were with the communication from school to home. This is an area we have worked very hard at over the past 18 months, although there is always room for improvement! Parents particularly felt that the Parent Bulletin and School Gateway were excellent in this regard. If you have yet to sign up to School Gateway, then I would strongly encourage you to do so. You will be able to view your child's timetable, their current attendance levels, and you will also receive live updates on House-points and behaviour points. We want parents to be involved and aware and School Gateway really helps with this. You can find details about it on the school website at www.kes.essex.sch.uk. If you look at the links at the bottom of the page, School Gateway is in the middle and you will find details about it and how to download the School Gateway app to your phone.

As ever, over the summer we took on a range of building projects to develop the school further. We have made a new entrance to the school buildings for students to the left of the main reception area for visitors, making it easier for students to get into school if they arrive after normal time. We have constructed a new dining area behind the gym for students who have packed lunches. This should prove very helpful in giving students space to eat their food at either break-time. We also looked at the office where our Heads of Year are based and have completely redesigned the area to provide a better space for both them and our Pastoral Support Managers. The final major work undertaken was the installation of 60 new interactive whiteboards in classrooms around the school. This is a fantastic improvement for us - updating some very tired projectors and screens!

It is always a challenge to ensure KES students have

the best possible facilities to help them, and we are very pleased with the impact that these latest changes are already having on all aspects of school life. Alongside this, we continue to work hard to both recruit excellent new teachers to KES and to continue to develop the skills of existing members of staff. During each school year we use training days and meeting time to develop skills in the classroom and also to keep up-to-date with the many changes associated with exams which currently seem to be a constant feature in the world of education. One key area we are working on this year is to make increasing use of coaching as a way of improving what we do. Student coaching is part of this and may well feature for your son or daughter at some point over the next year or so.

As I write, we are preparing for our Post-16 Information evening - an evening when Year 11 students come into school to get advice and support about continuing their time at KES into the Sixth Form. Our Sixth Form is one that is open to all abilities - we offer a range of Level 2 (GCSE equivalent) courses as well as Level 3 (A Level & BTEC) courses. We are particularly proud of how well our students achieve, as the front page article indicates. The progress our students make in the Sixth Form is wonderful to see, with over 80% of them choosing to go on to higher education at university or college. Alongside this are our Sixth Formers who move from KES straight into employment - our students who take the CACHE Childcare qualification and then move straight into work at a nursery are perfect examples of this. If you are the parent of a Year 11 child, I hope that you were able to attend the evening on 21 October. If for some reason you were not able to, but you want to consider the KES Sixth Form, please contact the school and speak to Mrs Griffiths - we will be happy to help.

Those of you who read KES News towards the end of last year will know how pleased we were with the outcome of our Ofsted inspection. I hope that you get the sense from all of the above that we are not content to sit back and relax. I want KES students to achieve beyond what they would have believed possible, to have the best possible experience at KES and the best possible life chances once they leave us. Our mantra of being 'In Pursuit of Excellence' remains central to what we do, as does challenging and supporting students to keep on achieving a 'Personal Best' in all aspects of school life. With the new systems of communication we have in place, I hope that the partnership between the school and parents will help even more students to do exactly that.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE

Sue Nichol, Deputy Head, Pastoral and day to day



Applications for KES 2016

The application process for places in Year 7 next year is now well underway and the process for Sixth Form places is just beginning.

All parents of Year 6 children should have received information from their local authority (either Essex or Southend). Please can I reiterate how important it is for applications to be submitted by the cut-off date of October 31; any application received after this date will not be processed until all other applications have been processed and it would be highly unlikely that a place at KES would then be available.

If you have friends with children in Year 6, please encourage them to book onto a tour of the school during the school day; this really does give parents a feel for the school and an understanding of the KES ethos. Tours can be booked through Mrs Dobbs on 01702 545771 ext 3210.

If you have friends who have expressed an interest in getting their children into other year groups at KES, it is always worth their making an application and going on the waiting list. While we are full in every year group, there are occasions when spaces do come up.

Our Sixth Form Open Evening took place on Wednesday 21 October. We hope all Year 11 parents and students were able to attend. It is best to keep all options regarding post-16 study, open at this stage. Students from other schools are also very welcome to visit and consider KES for their Sixth Form study. Further details are available on the school website. If you were unable to make the Open Evening but would still like to visit our school, please contact Mrs Griffiths by telephone or by email at, jennigriffiths@kes.essex.sch.uk to arrange a tour.

HEADS OF YEAR UPDATE



Year 7

Year 7 have settled in well and displayed very positive and mature attitudes within their first few weeks. They enjoyed their induction programme, culminating in a great Team Building day; many students received certificates for their enthusiasm and team spirit.

Congratulations to the following students who were recently chosen by their peers as our School Council representatives. I look forward to working with them during the next year.

7AK – Amber Wakeman, Elliot Mogford, 7AE – Francesca Mackenzie, Joshua Cogan, 7AS – Olly Mahoney, Alice Robinson, 7BK – Fae Higgs, Thomas Westwick, 7BE – Carlos Ayao, Leah Davis, 7BS – Harry Rosier-Blagg, Libby Speakman, 7CK - Cameron Comery, Josie Hedger, 7CE

- Ernie Marshall, Jennifer Duffy, 7CS – Brandon Holloway, Paris Watson.

It's also great to see so many students already attending extracurricular clubs, learning new skills and making new friends. Please continue to encourage them to try something new and remind them that, through doing so, they can also achieve signatures for their Enterprise Passports.

Congratulations to 7BS for their progress this month, as they have achieved the highest number of House Points and have the honour of being the first tutor group to look after Kermit!

Can I add my personal thanks to all Year 7 students who helped with our Open Evening earlier this term; they were a credit to the school and showed prospective students and parents what it is to be part of KES.

Delia Webster, Head of Year 7



Year 8

Attendance is arguably one of the most important factors in student achievement and, for some, a fresh start such as the beginning of a new term can help to improve it. 212 Year 8 students are currently above 96%, the minimum expectation for attendance. Congratulations to Michael Jenner, who was the first student this term to win the 100% attendance draw.

Student Council and Student Voice, are an integral part of school life and I would like to congratulate the two students from each tutor group who were chosen as School Council representatives. I look forward to working with you in School Council meetings:

8AK - Dylan Coetzee, Holly Dodkins, 8AE - Joseph Robinson, Harleigh Hall, 8AS - Harvey

Watson, Faye Gudge, 8BK - Connor Mueller, Shanai Leonard, 8BE - Jimmy Comery, Shelby Hutchins, 8BS - Alfie Chrystal, Pollyanna Bradley, 8CK - James Coote, Tyler Lacey, 8CE - Albie Botten, Silestia Jasharj, 8CS - Joseph Corstophine, Jessie Sibindi.

Well done to the Year 8 football team, who defeated Sweyne Park, 4 - 3, in their first game of the season.

Finally, good luck to all the following students who are competing in national championships in the coming weeks: Max Lano (Diving), Molly Simmons (Gymnastics) and Ella Jones (Equestrian).

Andy Lilleker, Head of Year 8



Year 9

Year 9 have made a pleasing start to this new academic year, with the vast majority of students working hard, completing homework and settling down for this important year. I would like to reiterate that joining an extracurricular club is such a good idea for all students. It provides opportunities to meet new people and learn new skills, as well as enriching students' learning. Please encourage your child to attend at least one club a week; it is helpful for their development.

Last year, the Romans in the year group consistently outperformed the Vikings and Saxons with regard to the number of House Points they achieved. I challenge all students to knock them off their top spot and I challenge Romans *not* to be knocked off! Collecting House Points is excellent for the individual records of students, as well as for their House, and having the most points will put their House into a draw at the end of each term, enabling them to win a prize. Please ask your child how many House Points they have collected and maybe keep a tally at home to encourage them in their task.

Sarah Evison, Head of Year 9

HEADS OF YEAR UPDATE



YEAR 10

Welcome back to all Year 10 students and parents and thank you for an excellent start to the year in terms of uniform and behaviour. The students are definitely engaged and are starting their GCSE studies with a positive mindset. In order to continue this, I would encourage all students to find out which exam boards they will be sitting, and to look into websites and revision guides that can support them in their studies. Their teachers will be able to advise them on the best resources to use.

I would like to congratulate Abigail Tame, in 10CE for being awarded her second Jack Petchey Award. She was named best cadet in her Air Cadets group. Students can be

nominated for a variety of reasons, including volunteering and excellent contribution to extracurricular activities. If you feel that another Year 10 student deserves recognition and a nomination, please let me know. Finally, I would like to welcome my new Year 10 Tutor Council representatives to their roles: Emma Palmer, Charlie Deeks, James Cowland, Maddy Vaughan, Jake Sweeting, Ella Farrell, Kimberley Lay, Jack Griffin, Zack Buckley Hills, Ria Dineed Childs, Georgia Goble, Stanly Simms, Shannon Terry, Alex Osburn, Lily Martin, John Newman, Yasmin Tarbox and Ryan Copeland. Year group representatives will be announced soon.

Natasha Jenkins, Head of Year 10



Year 11

A high proportion of Year 11 students have started the year on a very positive note. A special mention goes to all prefects; I am assured that they are the strongest team KES has ever had. They are performing their duties thoroughly and with great enthusiasm. Staff from around the school have complimented myself and Miss Walsh on the team and this makes us very proud. Well done!

Unfortunately, a reminder does have to be made with regards to attendance and punctuality. With this year being such an important one, it is critical to all students' success that they arrive on time and are present for school. We have a target figure for attendance and this is always closely monitored. May I also take this opportunity to remind parents and students that any piercings, other than two small studs, one in each ear-lobe, are prohibited in school. Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to meeting you at Year 11 Parent Evenings.

Rachel Dunn, Head of Year 11



Sixth Form

We are really pleased by how both Year 12 and 13 have settled back into school. Year 13 are now focused on the task ahead, with applications being made to UCAS and targets being set for achieving their grades. It is so important for both year groups to plan their time well and to utilise their free time and stay up to date with deadlines. It can be a stressful time, especially for Year 12s as they make the transition from Year 11.

Employers and universities are looking for students who stand out and offer something different. With more students staying on at school or college until they are 18, it is even more important that they do so. Within the Sixth Form, there are lots of opportunities for students to engage in enrichment activities, such as Sixth Form coaching, mentoring, paired reading and being ambassadors. Therefore we have asked students to aim to do at least one enrichment activity.

All Year 12 students attended the *Roadster* event, where a carousel of road safety activities was on offer. The police gave a talk and demonstrated the importance of wearing seatbelts and how to help at the scene of an accident, and even the students had the chance to drive a car with a qualified instructor.

We would like to thank all the students who helped on Open Evening; they are fantastic school ambassadors.

Emma Cooke, Head of Year 12. Tom Hickey, Head of Year 13

FACULTY FOCUS ON HUMANITIES



The Humanities faculty were pleased with the overall exam results this summer, at both GCSE and A Level. We saw an increase in our grades compared to 2014 and felt that our students benefited from having textbooks and revision guides to take home. Additionally, they were given pre-exam briefings to prepare them to sit each exam.

Psychology results at A Level were particularly good this year, with two A grades and also an A* for Laura Smith, who is now studying Midwifery at the University of Surrey.

We are embracing the challenge of teaching new syllabuses at A Level and preparing for the changes that will be coming to GCSEs in 2016.

The faculty is continuing to develop its programme of extracurricular trips and activities, building upon those highlighted from last year that you can read about below.

Stephanie Nichols, Head of Humanities

History

Earlier in the year, a group of Year 9 students visited the Belgian town of Ypres. The trip included visits to First World War cemeteries and the Sanctuary Wood Museum, so that students could experience first hand, what life in the trenches was like and get an idea of the enormity of the sacrifices that were made on the battlefields. We were even able to locate the name of a relative of one of our students on the Menin Gate memorial. Students were also able to attend the Last Post ceremony, which has been carried out at the Menin Gate, every evening at 8pm since 1929, and a memorial poppy wreath was laid under the name of the relative we had located.

We are planning a similar trip in 2016 for the current Year 9, on what will be the hundredth anniversary of the Battle of the Somme.



Year 10 have been writing some poems in their GCSE History classes to tell the story of the early years of the Weimar Republic in 1919-21. This entry was written by Jake Hayes in Year 10.

The Weimar Republic faced opposition from the start, Chaos and confusion were heading off the chart. People were starving, the Kaiser had fled Violence was everywhere, too much blood to be shed. Germany had lost the war, it was 1919 The Treaty of Versailles was signed, what would it mean?

Communist uprisings happening everywhere, Spartacist rebellions, the country's in despair. Proportional voting left Germany divided and weak, The future of the Reichstag was looking very bleak.

FACULTY FOCUS ON HUMANITIES

Walton-on-the-Naze

Year 11 Geographers collected data on coastal management for their GCSE Controlled Assessment. They visited the Essex coastal town of Walton-on-the-Naze.



Geographer of the Half Term

Sophie in Year 9 is the KS3 award winner, while Matthew in Year 10 has been awarded the title for KS4.



Year 7 Go Geocaching

Last term, a group of Year 7 Geography students had the opportunity to try geocaching and den building at Hadleigh Country Park.

Using hand-held instruments, the students were able to locate a number of items hidden in containers throughout the park. They also learned how to build bivouacs out of found materials in the woods, along with camouflage techniques.

This very enjoyable day is to be repeated for the current Year 7 next summer.

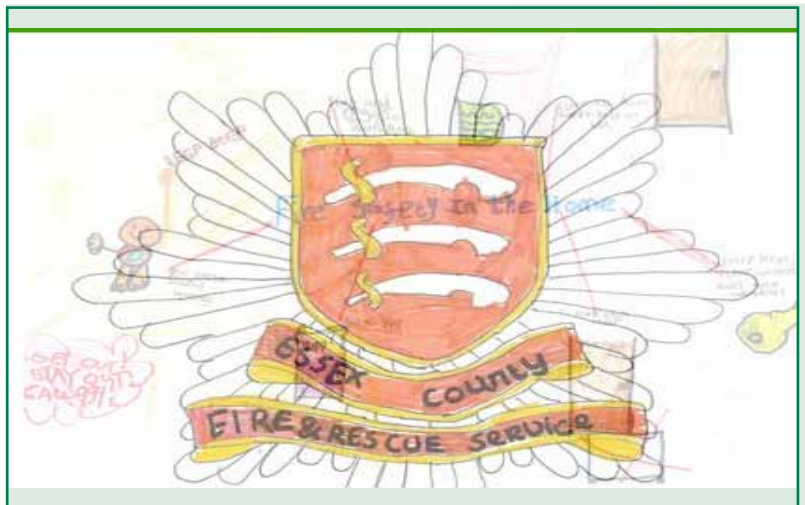


PSHE Talk on Drug Awareness

As part of the Citizenship and PSHE programme in the Summer Term, both Year 10 and 11 listened to a hard-hitting talk on the dangers of drug use.

Paul Hannaford shared his harrowing story of his criminal past and drug addiction, which led to spells in prison and very nearly cost him his life on a number of occasions. Students were left in no doubt as to the dangers of drug use, addiction and associated crime.

Paul now spends his working life educating young people. Information on his work, and links to websites offering advice and help, can be found at www.paulhannaford.com.



'Heat of the Moment' Programme

As part of the PSHE curriculum, Year 7 and 8 took part in a programme delivered by the Essex County Council Fire and Rescue Service. The 'Heat of the Moment' programme was specifically designed to reduce the incidence of hoax calls and deliberate fire starting.

Students were given key information about fire prevention, safety and making an escape plan, and lots of relevant and interesting questions were asked. Both programmes were delivered by Fire Officer Stuart Huxter, who was, we are pleased to report, very impressed by the way that students conducted themselves during the sessions; he commented that they were a credit to the school.

FACULTY FOCUS ON SCIENCE



Biology

Congratulations to all A2 Biology students who achieved 100% A - C grades in the summer exams. This is an excellent result and a reflection of the hard work and commitment of all students throughout the two years of Sixth Form. This excellent achievement will open many doors for higher education, training and employment.

A Level Biology Field Course

During September, our A2 Biology students spent two days at Daws Hall Nature Reserve, completing an exciting and challenging, field skills course. They learnt new skills such as quadratting, transecting and estimating animal population sizes, using the capture-release-recapture technique. This entails capturing a portion of the animal population, marking and then releasing them. This highly enjoyable and intensive two-day course was fully hands-on and was run by an expert ecologist. Students learnt the key skills needed for their A Level course and further study, as well as having the unique opportunity to get involved with real ecological studies in the field.

Daniel Osei-Poku, Head of Science



FACULTY FOCUS ON SCIENCE

Chemistry and Physics

A2 Chemistry students had reason to celebrate this summer as their hard work and commitment lead to all of them obtaining good grades. They worked extremely hard over the two-year course, and deserve all the success they achieved. An A Level in Chemistry is a highly respected qualification and is recognised as a desirable addition to any CV.

GCSE Physics students also worked very hard throughout their two-year course, studying topics ranging from nuclear disasters to the structure of the eye. They achieved outstanding results of 93% A* - C grades, which is above the national average. The following students were awarded A* and A grades; Ami, Aisling, Tom, Levi, Sam and Jordan. We are delighted to have many of these students return to our Sixth Form to embrace the challenges of A Level Physics.

Success was also shared among our Year 13 students, who achieved an impressive 67% A* - B, which again exceeded the national average. Robert Clemenson and Matthew Latter secured A grades and join other KES students heading off to university. These students are off to study a range of courses including Aeronautical Engineering, Acoustical Engineering and, of course, Physics. Congratulations to all our students.

CREST Bronze Award

Six KS3 students were recently awarded the CREST Bronze Award from the British Science Association. A nationally recognised qualification, this gives students the opportunity to learn transferable skills.

During Science Club this year, students of all ages will be able to work towards the Bronze and Silver awards, continuing to learn not only science skills, but those particularly useful in many job roles, including problem solving, communication and decision making.



Forensic Science

Year 7 and 8 students participated in Forensic Science investigations, looking at crime scene evidence.

Students carried out techniques used in this particular branch of science, such as shoe casts, fingerprinting, chromatography and chemical testing.



LATEST NEWS

Year 10/11 Normandy Trip

The Modern Foreign Languages department took a group of Year 10 and 11 students to Normandy in France. This was a residential trip, over a long weekend, at the beginning of the autumn term and gave the students a chance to practise the language first hand and to experience French culture.

Deputy Head Girl, Jasmine, was on the trip and has written about her experience.

“The coach departed KES at 5.15am and, despite a long journey, the students were greeted by the sunny town of Honfleur, at 4pm. After the first night, students spent Saturday morning in the authentic town of Bayeux, to visit the *Bayeux Tapestry*. The historic day continued with a touching visit to the *360 Cinema* which features a short film across nine screens, about World War 2, followed by a trip to the American cemetery. The last stop was the beautiful Omaha beach - a definite improvement on Southend beach!

Sunday was spent visiting the cultural *Mont St. Michel* and exploring a more religious aspect of France in the abbey. To gain a closer understanding of the island, students explored the town in small groups. The day concluded with a *crepe night* in the Chateau.

We departed at 7.30am on Monday morning, calling at one more destination before leaving France - *Le Boulangerie les Co-pains* a bakery. Not only did we learn about baking bread, but also about the language and its pronunciation. The bakery is a traditional-style establishment, whose focus is on preserving culture and community spirit, rather than profit, which is in contrast to the more industrial bakeries.

We returned to KES on the Monday. The trip was a major success thanks to the members of staff, Miss Berthomé, Mrs Cauchies and Mr Haynes, who accompanied us.”

The MFL department will be running further trips to France for different year groups later in the school year.



LATEST NEWS

Millionaire's Picnic

At the end of the summer term, a picnic was held for the 22 students who had successfully read and quizzed over a million words during the school year.

The lucky students were treated to an hour 'off timetable' to attend the event as a reward for their efforts, and an incentive to repeat the challenge this academic year,

They enjoyed a picnic-box lunch and a gift bag and spent time playing outdoor Jenga, French Boules and rounders.

The record last year was an outstanding 10 million words, and the race is on to beat this figure over the next year!



Career Academy Becomes Career Ready

Career Academy is now rebranded as Career Ready, a two-year programme for 16 to 19-year-olds, supported by some of the biggest names in British business. The programme prepares students for the world of work by focusing on linking students to employers through masterclasses, mentoring, workplace visits and internships.

Several KES students have recently spent time with various companies on internships, and here are some of their own descriptions of their experiences.

Hannah

"Over the summer holiday, I was given an amazing opportunity by *Career Ready*. I went to Rochford District Council to work in the accountancy department as an assistant. My tasks involved journals, counterparty, checking, commitment balancing, investigation of errors, budget book checks, cost centre budgeting, overspends and coding. I also worked on internal audit, claims, data, research analysis and financial reports.

I learnt valuable lessons from my placement, such as communication skills and handling pressure, organisational skills and using my own initiative."



Aaron

"I am taking part in the *Career Ready* programme which required me to complete a four week internship, which I undertook at Olympus KeyMed. This was a new experience for me, as I was working, full time at a large business. The company is local and sells medical and surgical equipment, but I was based in a department that dealt with insurance on endoscopes and electro-medical equipment. I was taught how to draw up and renew contracts which were sent to hospitals across the country.

This was a great experience for me as I gained new skills, learnt how to build relationships with co-workers, made new contacts and obtained a reference for my CV. As a bonus, I was invited back to the company on their Charity Day, and here I am dressed up as the hospital mascot, *Buddy Bear*."



Jack

"As part of my completion of the *Career Ready* programme, I was placed on a six week internship at Citigroup Centre in Canary Wharf, London. Working in the private side, banking sector, I worked with the transition and management team. This involved the transfer of funds between two asset managers, with transfers usually reaching around \$1bn each. I was involved with a variety of tasks, contributing to the flow of work through the office."

LATEST NEWS

KES Students Play For Rochford Hundred RFC

In an exciting first match of the season, the Rochford Under-15's team won 58 - 15 against Wanstead.

Year 10 students Daniel, Austen and Corey were part of the team that scored 10 tries and 4 conversions to win convincingly over their opponents.

Training times for both boys and girls, from 8 to 13 years, can be found at www.rochfordrugby.com.



Computer Coding

At KES, we are committed to offering our students new ways to learn, which is why we are proud to announce Code Academy and 3D Game Club.

Teaching computer programming skills to students is seen as a solution to the skills gap between the number of technology jobs and the people qualified to fill them. We hope the clubs will help our students to develop their skills in problem solving, programming and game design.

Over the course of the year, we will be rolling these out to all year groups, giving everyone the chance to engage with, and create, something unique and interesting.



Technology Competition Success

James, a Year 13 student, has been awarded the Lucy Pettet Innovation Award by the Science and Engineering Society in association with Anglia Ruskin University.

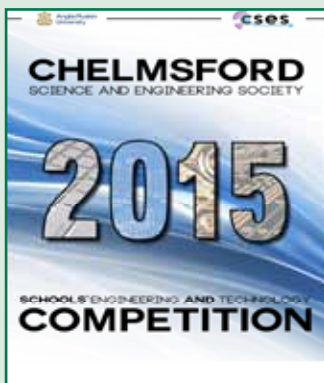
James's design of a feature water fountain, with *Bluetooth* connectivity, proved to be a winner in the eyes of the judges of the Schools' Engineering and Technology Competition. Along with the innovation award, he was also runner-up in the Students Choice Award.

This is a prestigious prize for James, with several major design and engineering companies, such as Ford and BAE Systems, as sponsors, and will be an excellent addition to his CV. His ambition is to work in product design when he leaves education.

Roger Barnes, Head of Design and Technology, said: "The competition has provided a unique opportunity for KES to showcase the excellent work undertaken by students at the school."

Ex- student Fleur, who also entered the competition with her design for an Early Years Play Tent, won the CSES Design Execution Award (Years 10 - 11).

James's prototype design is now proudly displayed in the faculty display cabinet, for all to view.



LATEST NEWS

Jack Petchey Achievement Award

The first winner of the academic year in September is Elizabeth in Year 11. She now has £200 to spend within the school and will attend the Annual Awards Evening in December.

Elizabeth is an active member, and young leader, of the 4th Rochford Scout Group. She has been running exciting and engaging programmes with both the Beavers and Cubs, and her most recent achievement was gaining her Young Leaders Buckle Award. During August alone, she volunteered an admirable 17 hours of her spare time to helping others.

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



Library and Learning Resource Centre

A warm welcome to our new Year 7 and Sixth Form students. The library is open from 7.55am - 3.15pm, including break times. All are welcome and it would be great to see more of you.

We have a designated Sixth Form area, which includes many books running alongside A Level courses. We also have various copies of textbooks, which can be borrowed, and we are always on hand to assist students in finding the books they need. There are 20 iPods available for Year 10 and 11, which are loaded with GCSE revision guides for all subjects. These can be borrowed by students - please ask for details.

The E-Book Club runs after school on Thursdays and is open to everyone. Students can bring along their own e-readers or the school has 30 available for loan. There is technical support to help with downloading books, and digital books will be loaned in the same way as paper books.

We also run the following clubs after school: Board Games (Monday and Thursday), Chess Club (Tuesday), Manga (Wednesday), and E-Book Club (Thursday). In addition, KESBucks has re-launched on Fridays, break 2, in R2. Students can purchase hot chocolate with cream and marshmallows for 20p. No entry without a reading book though! All money raised is donated to the Readathon charity.

This term, our Year 8 students will be meeting Rob Lloyd Jones, the author of *Wild Boy*, to talk about his writing and have the opportunity to purchase a signed book. Our competition this term is to answer five questions on a book you have read. All entries receive five House points, with a £20 cinema voucher and £20 voucher for Creams. The competition is open to all years, so get reading!

Upcoming Production

Rehearsals are underway for this year's school production, a musical based on the classic Roald Dahl book, *Mathilda*.

The performances will take place on Monday 30 November, Tuesday 1 and Wednesday 2 December.

Tickets will be available to purchase in November.



Business Brain of the Month



September's winners were Cameron, KS4 and Adam, KS5.

LATEST NEWS

Teambuilding Day

Year 7 complete their induction week with a day of teambuilding games.



Pupil Premium Gap Narrowed

The Pupil Premium Grant is a sum of money the school receives for students who are either in receipt of, or who have been eligible in the last six years for, free school meals.

The government invest this money to narrow the gap in exam performance between those who are and those who are not eligible. Nationally, the gap is 27% between the two, but in our local area it can be as much as 42%.

KES is able to spend the money to address this gap in attainment and we have been working to reduce this for a number of years, although it has been consistently below the national average. This year, however, through a wide range of interventions and a lot of encouragement, the gap seen at KES has been reduced to 15%.

Well done to all those students who really strived to reach their personal best!

Gothic Stories Performer

Year 9 students recently saw a reading of two Gothic stories by actor Rupert Mason. They are currently studying the subject in their English lessons.



Sixth Form Roadster Event

This annual event for KES gave Year 12 the opportunity to listen to a talk by Essex Transport Police about the consequences of using a mobile phone whilst driving, and driving under the influence of drink or drugs. They were taught about first aid and were able to drive a car under the supervision of a driving instructor.





We are happy to report that all extracurricular clubs are underway and our diary is filled with sporting fixtures. Parents are always welcome to come and watch matches, both home and away and students selected for teams can see future fixtures displayed in the pool corridor.

Fixtures and Team Selection

- All team selections are placed outside the PE office of the team manager and will include all the details required for the fixture, including date, meeting time, approximate finish/return time and kit required.
- It is the student's responsibility to transfer this information into their planner and inform parents/carers. However, please be aware that some fixtures may be subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control.
- Teams may vary from fixture to fixture, as the team manager selects from a range of criteria including talent, fitness, team participation, work ethic, team commitment and attitude.
- Full KES PE kit must be worn at all times; where appropriate, this includes shin pads. Students not wearing shin pads in certain sports will be unable to play. Sharing of this equipment is not hygienic, so it is essential that students bring their own.
- If a student cannot play in a fixture, they must inform the team manager immediately. If a student is ill on the day of the fixture, they must inform the school.

As a PE faculty, we are proud of our extracurricular success and we will continue our professional and dedicated approach to all extracurricular activities and fixtures.

Craig Simpson, Head of Physical Education

Inter-House Sports

Each of the three Houses, Saxons, Romans and Vikings, compete over the academic year in various sports matches. This culminates in Sports Day in the summer term, with the presentation of awards.

November 16 2015 - Boys Football

Girls Hockey

December 1 2015 - Girls Swimming

December 3 2015 - Boys Swimming

January 12 2016 - Boys Basketball

Girls Football

February 1 2016 - Girls Badminton

March 21 2016 - Boys Rugby

Girls Netball

June 14 2016 - Boys Cricket

Girls Rounders

Year 7 Netball

Year 7 girls have drawn both of their games so far and look promising for the season ahead. In their first match, against Cornelius Vermuyden School, they drew 2 - 2, which was an excellent result as we had only one training session. Player of the match, was Josie Hedger. Greensward Academy are always tough opposition, but after a half time score of 4 - 1 down, some excellent shooting from Renee Stenhouse meant that they drew the game 5 - 5. Player of the match was Mairead O'Connor. The B team also played well with some great defending from Rebecca Thomas and Olivia Wyre. The final score was 1 - 1 and player of the match was Amy Symons.

In the match against King John School, the girls played some fantastic netball. In an outstanding effort, the A team won 13 - 1, with player of the match going to both Rebecca French and Brooke Jackson. Unfortunately, the B team lost 2 - 1, but also played a great game. Rebecca Thomas and Olivia Wyre were named players of the match.

Year 7 Football

The first football fixtures of the year were against FitzWimarc. The A team fought back superbly from 2 - 0 down to draw 2 - 2. Goals were from Tom Westwick and Kai Bingham. Player of the match was Cody Bacon, who led the team from the back, won everything in the air and made an excellent goal-line clearance.

The B team lost 2 - 4, but can be encouraged by their display. An own goal and a strike from man of the match, Callum Taylor, were the highlights for the B team boys.

INFORMATION

Improved School Text Messaging System

From time to time, we send information to parents via text message. A free smartphone app for parents is now available to download; it is called 'School Gateway'.



The app is suitable for Apple (iPhone 3GS or later, iPad, iPod Touch) and Android (2.3/Gingerbread or later) devices.

Please download this new app to your phone (it's free) as it will help us improve communication with parents – and save the school money.

The set-up process is simple and will take no more than a couple of minutes:

1. Search for School Gateway in the Apple App Store or on Google Play. Alternatively, go to www.schoolgateway.com/apple (Apple) or www.schoolgateway.com/android (Android).
2. Install the app and if you are asked then say yes to 'Allow Push Notifications'.
3. When you launch School Gateway for the first time, please select 'New User' and enter the email address and mobile telephone number you have registered with the school.
4. The system will send a PIN code to your phone; please enter this PIN code and the app will be activated for you.

As soon as you've got the system set up, all of the text messages we send you will appear in the app; you'll receive notifications/alerts as normal.

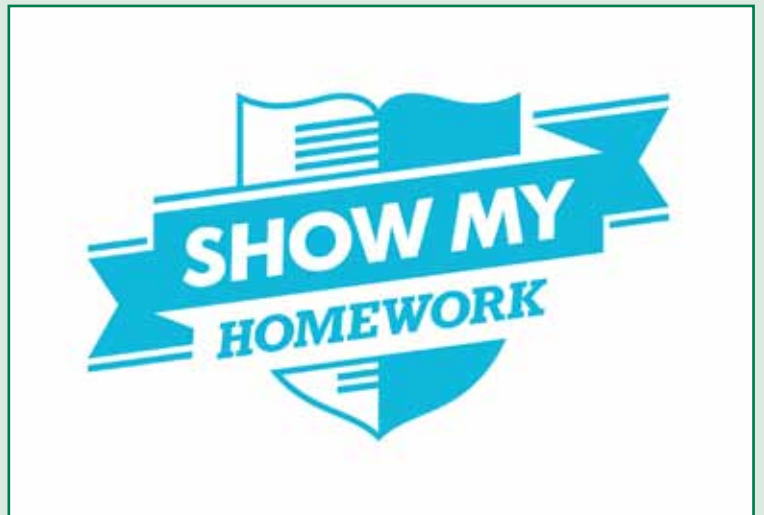
If you would like to find out more, please visit the school website or contact Mrs Burrows on extension 3256. If you've recently changed your email address or mobile telephone number, please let us know so we can update our records.

Show My Homework

Remember that you can check on what homework has been set, when it is due, and what is required, using SMHW.

Simply go to, www.thekingedmund.showmyhomework.co.uk and apply the filters in line with your child's timetable. Alternatively, you can log on to view only your child's calendar.

If you have forgotten your username and password, please contact adminoffice@kes.essex.sch.uk.



ADHD Support

A series of seminars, run by *ADHD -Support* for children, adults and teachers affected by ADHD are currently running in Chelmsford. Support group meetings are also being held. Please visit www.adhd-support.org.uk for further details.