



KING
EDWARD'S
SCHOOL
BATH

SPRING 2025

KESlife

THE SCHOOL FOR ADVENTUROUS MINDS



Welcome



As we approach the midpoint of the academic year, it is a pleasure to look back on just some of the highlights so far and to get a sense of how these reflect the ethos of the School.

As I hope you agree, the many articles and photographs in the 2025 edition of *KESlife* eloquently capture the fun, teamwork, creativity, adventure, ambition but also community focus that is at the heart of so much of what we encourage our pupils to embrace.



From trips of a lifetime to impactful charitable projects, celebrating different cultural perspectives to bringing the curriculum to life, pupils – and staff – from all sections of King Edward's have evidently taken great joy in making the most of the myriad opportunities on offer so far this year, with plenty more to come in the Spring and Summer Terms. Indeed, it is clear that each week they bring light, colour and life to our recently reframed purpose and values: being the best version of themselves, learning and growing together, always exploring, aiming high but staying humble.

We were delighted that these and many other facets of life at KES were recognised in glowing terms by *The Good Schools Guide* following their visit to the School in the autumn. As well as praising the "top level teaching" and "great creative and extra-curricular opportunities", our reviewer noted that King Edward's is "proud to remain academically pacy but equally proud that it's also an enriching and nurturing school in which pupils thrive" – pleasing sentiments indeed! In addition, KES was also recently recognised by *The Sunday Times* in its influential *Parent Power Guide* as the top performing co-educational independent school in the South West for the third year in a row, a significant accolade of which we are also quietly proud!

I do hope that you enjoy reading this year's magazine and send my best wishes and thanks, as always, to all KES families – Pre-Prep, Junior, Senior and in some cases all three! – for your wonderful support for our school.

Martin J Boden
HEADMASTER



From music marathons to cake sales

It has been a very busy start to this academic year with regard to KES Charities.

To date, we have raised £8,000 for our selected charities. This amazing amount could not have been raised without the support and generosity of the pupils, parents and staff within our community; I can't thank you enough. The monies we raise and the donations we give make a huge difference to the lives of many.

Through the Autumn Term, the Senior School was involved in 16 separate fundraising initiatives. These included: a Music Marathon, cake sales, reverse advent collection for Julian House, Year 7 Interform cake competition, non-uniform days, Reindeer Run for Dorothy House Trust, Christmas Appeal for the Salvation Army and we also donated 703.4kgs of food to support Bath Foodbank (part of Genesis Trust Bath) in October. The Music Marathon consisted of around 80 musicians who took to the stage to perform one-minute pieces to raise money. It was such an incredible evening, showcasing the incredible talent of pupils and staff alike. The Year 7 Interform cake competition was in a league of its own; there were an incredible 69 entries!

Looking ahead, the Spring and Summer Terms are going to be equally, if not more exciting, for KES Charities. On 21st March we will be hosting our ever popular KES Unite Concert. This will be a 10-year celebration, with all funds raised going towards our longstanding charity partner, Moving Mountains Trust, an international charity working with disadvantaged children and communities in Kenya, Tanzania and Nepal. Every two years, pupils from Years 11-13 are given the opportunity to apply to join a very special trip to support the work of the charity.

This July, 34 pupils and five members of staff will be embarking on a three-week camping trip to Kenya to volunteer at Moving Mountains projects and to see first-hand the impact the money we raise has on local communities. Each of the pupils embarking on this trip in the summer have committed to their own personal fundraising goals to further support the work of the charity, six of whom have signed up to run the Bath Half Marathon!

■ Mrs B Lascelles CHARITIES CO-ORDINATOR

[@KESBathCharity](https://www.kesbathcharity.org)



KES enhances community support by joining The Wellbeing Hub

At the beginning of the academic year, the School joined The Wellbeing Hub.

This online service provides an expert-led, evidence-based resource for meeting the social, emotional, and educational needs of young people, helping to support their mental health and wellbeing.

We have been delighted to see so many of our parents, pupils and staff accessing the resources and support available from this invaluable resource. Supporting the mental health and wellbeing of our community is a top priority for us here at KES, and we are very

pleased to be able to draw on the various webinars, video courses, monthly live Q&As and Help Zone that have been created by mental health and wellbeing experts to build on the existing support already in place for our pupils through our peer mentoring scheme, Health and Wellbeing Centre, counselling and listening service provided by Off The Record, Learning for Life programme and the pastoral structure helping pupils to navigate their way through school life and beyond.

■ Mr W Quayle
DEPUTY HEAD (PASTORAL)

A festive success

KES PARENTS' CHRISTMAS FAIR

On the last weekend of November, the KES Parents' Christmas Fair transformed the School into a festive wonderland, drawing large numbers. The event spanned two buildings, the Sports Hall and the Wessex Building, each bustling with over 75 diverse stalls and activities.

The Sports Hall featured a variety of stalls, including handcrafted jewellery, second-hand books, toys, games, homeware and decorations, beeswax candles, art and ceramics, as well as pupil-led stalls such as the Human Fruit Machine, Chocolate Tombola, the Year 9 Business Studies and KES Tycoon Club stalls, to name just a few.

In the Wessex Building, the KES Café did a roaring trade, with visitors loving the wide range of cakes, savoury bites and hot drinks (including mulled wine) on offer, whilst enjoying a well-earned sit down.

Special highlights included meeting Father Christmas in his grotto and the wonderful performances by



KES Wind. The event, supported by the CCF for parking, was a very successful fundraising effort organised by KES Parents. The fair was a joyous occasion, bringing the community together in the spirit of giving and celebration.

The event raised nearly £13,000. This incredible amount will be reinvested across the KES school community.

A big thank you to everyone who attended, donated, supported and volunteered at this year's fair.

NAVIGATING NEW BEGINNINGS

Everyone was buzzing with excitement on our first day at King Edward's Senior School.

After a speech by the Headmaster, Mr Boden, to kickstart the year, we headed back to our form rooms and familiarised ourselves with the different aspects of school life. After a three-period form time, in which we caught up with old friends and made new ones, along with meeting our Form tutors, we had our first ever lessons at KES.

Learning the layout of the site was a particularly important part of the day. Initially, it seemed daunting that we had to figure our way around ten different teaching blocks with multiple floors, but soon we all managed to memorise the system without too much difficulty. Our transition to the Senior School was aided by the many staff and older pupils who helped us navigate the site; they were all so friendly and happy to help us.

We also tried out some of the extra-curricular activities in our first week. We found this great fun and would definitely recommend taking part. The School offers a wide range of clubs and societies, ranging from academic clinics to after-school sport squads, music groups and library clubs.

As well as participating in clubs in the library, it is also a great resource for homework. Contrary to our expectations, we don't get too much homework, with a maximum of three short

pieces each night – not a huge difference from primary school. However, we quickly realised that it helps to keep on top of homework by writing it in our planners!

We all felt that the Senior School was really welcoming to everyone, both those who came up from the Junior School and those from other primary schools – about 60% of us didn't go to the Junior School. We found it was actually very easy to make friends in the first week. Although many of our lessons are done in form groups, we mingle with other classes for maths and languages. As well as these opportunities to meet others, the whole school is involved in clubs and societies.

At KES, you can always find a subject that you love, be that Maths or Music, Physics or French. These past few weeks have been a great start to Senior School, and we are really looking forward to the rest of our school careers here.

■ **Auriol Thomphuason, Ned Wilkes, Hunter Borthwick and Éire Farrell** YEAR 7



@KESBathYear7



Outstanding performances in Cross Country races

This year, King Edward's took part in the **BANES Cross Country** event, held at Kingswood School. There were over 100 people in some races, from Years 7-13, involving pupils from schools in and around Bath and North East Somerset.

Our overall results were outstanding, and were as follows:

YEAR 7 GIRLS

- KES came 2nd in the Team Competition.
- Phoebe Millard was placed 9th individually.

YEAR 7 BOYS

- KES came 1st in the Team Competition.
- Jack Davies was placed 4th and Tristan Wedgewood 10th.

Kingswood also hosted a second Cross Country race later in the season, which was longer than the first one (about 2.4km), but this time with hills! Following the first race (which they were still exhausted from), competitors were able to choose if they wanted to do a 2km x 4 relay, doing their best and producing some incredible results. Both competitions were full of excitement – we all ran for the delicious cookies that were waiting for us at the end, made by the amazing chefs at KES!

Having the opportunity to compete in this competition was a chance to have fun with friends and also to do some serious running!

■ **Mathilde Azais and Annabel Borer** YEAR 7

CELEBRATING ALL THINGS SPANISH!

Spanish Club is a wonderful opportunity to experience and enjoy Spanish culture and to make new amigos.

So far, pupils have taste-tested a range of delicious snacks from Spain and developed skills in expressing opinions, with most pupils finding them ¡deliciosos! They have also played classic card games, such as Dobble and UNO, but with a Spanish twist, as well as fun Christmas related

activities, “abanico” making and so much more. This has helped everyone to expand their vocabulary with new and exciting words.

The club is run by Miss McPherson and our wonderful Year 12 Spanish Prefects, who help our younger pupils to get involved in the language, passing on their passion for Spanish in an engaging, enthusiastic way.

Spanish Club is open to pupils in Year 7 and 8. ¡Te esperamos!

■ **Mrs E Gil** HEAD OF SPANISH



@KESBathSpanish



@KESBathClassics

Year 8 take a trip back in time to Roman Bath

In the ambient settings of the misty water over the Roman Baths, Year 8 pupils had a wonderful week exploring this ancient, almost mystical site.

The pupils explored the site itself and the informative museum, where they learned much about the baths, Sulis Minerva, the sacred spring and the different components that made this site such an important settlement in the ancient world. In the impressive Clore Learning Centre, the pupils learned more about what exactly made Aquae Sulis special in Roman times and what attracted so many people to its waters. How lucky we are to have such an incredible historical site on our doorstep. To quote Pindar, ἀριστον μὲν ὕδωρ; water is best!

■ **Mr P Feeny** CLASSICS TEACHER



@KESBathHistory

Bringing History alive

Year 7 pupils enjoyed exploring Chepstow Castle in early October as part of their study of the Norman Conquest and its impact on the built environment of Britain.

They enjoyed clambering around the battlements and were treated to a fantastic demonstration of the lethality of a crossbow and sharp-sword as a historical re-enactor slashed milk bottles to pieces. This whole-year trip also had a welcome element of team bonding in it. Bringing History to life outside the classroom is a priority for the History department, which is also looking to introduce a new module in Year 8 exploring Bath during the time of the Georgians and Victorians.

Other trips during the Autumn Term included a visit to Parliament and the Supreme Court with our Year 12 Politicians and an unforgettable trip to Berlin in December with our GCSE Historians.

■ **Mr P Ford** HEAD OF HISTORY



Mathematicians win Bronze, Silver and Gold!

In October, 161 of our best Mathematicians took part in the Senior Maths Challenge. Only 40% of entries nationally are awarded a certificate. Of our 161 entries, 60 pupils were awarded the Bronze certificate and 31 received Silvers.

The elusive Gold certificate was secured by ten KES pupils, with Hannah Blacker the recipient of the cup for the highest score in the School.



Well done to everyone who took part: Hannah Blacker, Edward Blackwall, Toby Donohue, Lewis Guan, Charlotte Lang, Jonas Mak, Ben Manon, Lawrence Moore, Joseph Pagnamenta and Rowan Peregrine-Jones.

■ Mr R Pagnamenta
HEAD OF MATHEMATICS

✕ @KESBathMaths

MUNKES SHINE

The Queen's College Taunton
Model United Nations Conference

The MUNKES Society has had a busy term. After welcoming a large cohort of new MUNERS, we held two successful in-house committees.

In these events new members were taught procedure, which they picked up incredibly quickly, and insightful debates were had. All this training went to good use as the society sent three delegations – Malaysia, Israel, and the USA – to the QMUN conference, held at Queen's College Taunton.

After much debate in our committees, ranging from the humanitarian crisis in South Sudan to a crisis wherein Malaysia was attacked by an unknown foreign state, our delegates were reunited in the General Assembly. All the countries represented at the conference then held a lively debate about the availability of food and water in humanitarian crisis zones, our delegations

making their fair share of contributions. While Malaysia and Israel were able to ask apt questions that forwarded the debate, the USA managed to pass a resolution – no mean feat considering the scale of the opposition.

The closing ceremony left KES with quite a few committee awards. Israel received a commended and highly commended, Malaysia received a commended, a highly commended, and an incredible Best Delegate. The USA received two commended, two highly commended, and Ian Korzuch achieved a joint best delegate in the Security Council – after he and the Argentinian delegate were 'impossible to choose between'. Finally, for the second year in a row, the KES USA delegation was awarded Best Delegation – winning the entire conference!

■ Penny Wright YEAR 13



NAVIGATING THE DIGITAL CAVE

Balancing technology and reality in modern society

Participation in modern-day society requires technology, and increasingly, smartphones. It's through websites and apps that we pay our bills, communicate with friends and family, access the news, park our cars, listen to music, apply for doctor's appointments and, yes, seek romance. Many of the old-fashioned ways have been forced into redundancy and so even luddites like me have had to adapt.

For a generation who grew up online, today's pupils know very little about assessing the validity of content in their vast virtual world. Regardless of whether technology ultimately proves to be a force for human development or devolution, for connection or isolation, or for knowledge or brainwashing, becoming savvier about how we use it (or how it uses us) and manage its effects can only help.

I am sure that many of you will be familiar with Plato's *Allegory of The Cave*. Prisoners in a cave are chained facing a wall upon which they see only the shadows of what happens around them. They never see anything directly, as they cannot turn their heads; language is a blur of disembodied background noise. Their whole world is the cave wall. One of the prisoners gets released and discovers the outside world; it is overwhelming, incredible, full of wonders never imagined. He returns to his cave to share his discovery, but the other prisoners cannot recognise or understand him. Enlightened by knowledge incomprehensible to the others, the liberated prisoner exists now in a separate reality.

In a recent Learning for Life + lesson, I asked the pupils how this allegory might apply to what we've learned about technology. Hands shot up. 'The people inside the cave represent people who don't have technology, people who are stuck in the dark ages. The freed prisoner represents the way technology opens up another world,' one pupil said in a pool of nodding heads. While that's a perfectly valid interpretation, I urged them to consider the allegory in the reverse. They stared at me blankly. Finally, a quiet, thoughtful pupil raised her hand.

'Well...' she started uncertainly, 'you could say that the people in the cave are those obsessed with technology. The ones who play video games all day long, who send a hundred WhatsApp messages a day, whose virtual lives are more real than their actual ones. Perhaps they're the ones in the dark, while the people who can put down their devices and walk into the sun are the enlightened ones.'

■ Miss H Dawes HEAD OF LEARNING FOR LIFE

Introducing our new Academic Deputy Head...

At the start of the new academic year, we were delighted to welcome Mr Alex Smith to KES as the Senior School Deputy Head (Academic).

Starting out his education with a first-class degree in Classics at Cambridge, Mr Smith gained a Masters in Education and has spent time teaching in schools throughout the UK as well as training teachers across Europe on Erasmus programmes.

Mr Smith will be bringing a wealth of experience after serving as Senior Deputy at King's School (Gloucester) and Deputy Head (Academic) at Notting Hill and Ealing High School, during which time he has also been part of the Independent Schools Inspection Team.

In addition to his academic interests, Mr Smith enjoys spending time with his family including three young children (the two oldest of whom have joined KES). As an ex-professional level squash player, avid runner and keen singer, Mr Smith is also looking forward to being involved in the wider aspects of school life.



“ I have enjoyed being part of KES for this term and already feel part of the community here. I have been struck by the interest and engagement of the pupils in all facets of school life: I have frequently seen pupils emerging from lessons still deep in discussion about the topics they have just been learning about, inspired by their passionate teachers. It has been a pleasure to see the high-quality music, sport and drama taking place alongside all this, as well as the real social conscience from all the sustainability and charity work. I look forward to getting involved in helping such a vibrant community.”

Mr A Smith
DEPUTY HEAD (ACADEMIC)

Arkwright Engineering Scholarship

In the autumn, we congratulated Lawrence Moore (Year 12) who was awarded a prestigious Arkwright Engineering Scholarship, one of the most highly regarded scholarships of its type in the UK, designed to inspire pupils to pursue a career in engineering.

Scholarships are awarded after a rigorous selection process, and successful candidates are sponsored by a commercial company, trade association, university, armed service, personal donor, government organisation or other such body.

As an Arkwright Scholar, Lawrence will have his own mentor and join networking events. His scholarship is sponsored by the RAF, where over half of personnel work in engineering.



Innovative Teaching and Learning at KES

It has been a very positive start at KES. We have found ourselves ranked in the top 40 co-educational independent schools of any kind in the country in *The Sunday Times Parent Power Guide*, including being placed 1st in the South West for the third year running.

I have enjoyed being part of such a welcoming community and have already gained a real sense of the focussed, determined, yet kind and nurturing environment here. All the senior leadership team and several governors have had the chance to tour lessons as part of an expanded process of "learning walks".



I thought it would be nice to share a few of the things that we saw:

We have been exploring starts of lessons with a 'Do Now' task for pupils. The purpose of this is to start each lesson in a meaningful way and avoid the inevitable downtime of everything waiting to start. We saw everything from a crossword in Biology to help reinforce key terms to quotations in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* up for discussion.

Our Year 12 pupils have also been part of our introduction of a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) programme as they explore the benefits of technology in the classroom as a helpful tool in their learning, whilst still maintaining much of the traditional teaching methods that continue to make KES such a success. We observed pupils using their devices in subjects such as Maths to make notes, look up additional methods to solve problems and estimate graphs in a way that did not impact the traditional learning which is such a key to success.

Our thanks go to our Teaching and Learning Champions, Ms Moon and

Mr Ferguson for helping to promote the best quality of lessons from all and to Mr Garner-Richardson for helping us to see the benefits we can gain from digital technology in and out of the classroom.

Finally, an internal regular bulletin has also been launched this term, titled *KES Educational Edits*, to keep staff up to date with educational ideas and developments, ensuring that teaching and learning is at the forefront of teachers' minds and lessons. Our first bulletin focused on exploring different methods of pupils answering questions – too often the default is relying on hands up, so we have highlighted the wealth of other techniques and research behind them such as no hands up questioning.

I will end with a quote from a governor, a former Headteacher himself, who, in response to observing some lessons, noted, "there was a sense of sheer joy to the learning, and it was a pleasure to get the chance to see all that goes on during a typical afternoon at KES."

■ Mr A Smith DEPUTY HEAD (ACADEMIC)

THE IMPACT OF DONATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

It has been incredible to see so much support from the school community in my busy first year as Development Director at KES. Thank you to all of you who have volunteered, attended events or donated during the last year.

The range of support I have seen has been vast and varied. From funding bursaries or donating to transform our school environment, to parents and Old Edwardians offering their time to share their career journeys and expertise, the support has been truly remarkable.



Children from St Andrew's Church School taking part in workshops at KES

Donations from current and former parents have helped us to develop aspects of all three of our school sites as well as enhancing the teaching and learning experience for our pupils. Recent donations have included a new banner for our CCF contingent, musical instruments, outdoor furniture, pupil prizes and sports equipment.

Donations from our community to the Wroughton Bursary Fund, named after former Headmaster Dr John Wroughton, currently provide five fully funded bursaries to pupils in the Senior School, pupils like Amber, a talented netball player, who joined KES in the Sixth Form.



“The KES bursary programme provides amazing opportunities to students who otherwise would never have had them. As a result, young students like me who want to make the most of their talents and passions can do so.”

Amber 2024 LEAVER AND BURSARY AWARD HOLDER

Driven by our values of looking forwards and outwards, our ambition is that our Bursary Programme will be able to provide the necessary support so that any pupil offered a place can attend, regardless of their family's financial circumstances.



In 2023-24

678

Local school pupils supported through inspiring workshops, lessons and activities

157

Senior School pupils at KES with means-tested bursaries

I am also delighted to share with you KES's first *Impact Report*, which highlights our partnership work and the connections we have with local schools and community organisations in Bath and the surrounding area. We are proud to play an active and engaged role in the city and believe that, through our longstanding partnership and outreach work, we can have a very positive impact not only on our own pupils and staff, but on the Bath community and beyond.

■ Ms A Heyes DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

in KESBath

To view our Impact Report, please scan the QR code:



If you would like to discuss making a donation, please contact Alison Heyes on 01225 464313 or email a.hey@kesbath.com

Young Bath artists return to Burdall's Yard

Following the success of last year's inaugural event, schools across Bath collaborated on the second 'Young Bath Artists' exhibition at Burdall's Yard on London Road.

With a selection of GCSE and A Level pieces, the show seeks to bring together and celebrate artistic talent from across the city. This time around, schools were keen to put up even more work, and the walls at Burdall's Yard were filled with over 125 drawings, paintings, photographs and prints. As well as more traditional artwork, we also showed a range of film and animation as well as some textile and sculptural pieces.

The exhibition was opened with a busy private view, where it was great to see pupils, parents and colleagues from across the schools involved. With this event now becoming a permanent fixture in the calendar, we have already booked dates for next year's show!

■ Mr E Hume-Smith

HEAD OF ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY



@KESBathArtPhoto

The Anthology celebrates its twelfth year in publication

On Thursday 14th November, an intimate soirée took place at the Senior School in the Porter Library to promote the launch of the twelfth edition of the *Anthology*.

To celebrate the *Anthology's* release, all contributors and their families were invited to the library to enjoy refreshments and nibbles, as the authors entertained the audience by reading extracts from their

writing. During the evening, guests were enthralled and amazed as pupils shared snippets from their thought-provoking pieces.

One by one, poets and writers alike stepped up to the front to share their fantastic work. Poets read for us captivating poems and writers shared



@KESBathEnglish

@KESBathArtPhoto



gripping fictional pieces and thought-provoking essays. But let's not forget the amazing artwork produced by the art and photography pupils, cleverly chosen to complement the writing. Throughout the night, jaw-dropping artwork wowed the crowd as we marvelled at the skill and talent of both the artists and writers.

The standard of submissions in this year's *Anthology* has never been higher, yet again demonstrating the breadth of creativity and talent that the pupils of King Edward's have to offer.

■ Eve Marsden YEAR 9

CELEBRATING TALENT

Bath Young Musician and Bath Young Actor of the Year



The Mid-Somerset Festival was a highlight in this year's performing arts calendar.

Firstly, we were treated to two truly incredible KES solo performances by Edward Blackwall (Year 13) on Flute and Indira Pandit (Year 12) on cello at the 2024 Bath Young Musician of the Year final in the city's prestigious Pump Rooms.

Unfortunately, there could only be one winner, with Edward being awarded the coveted title. Judges praised his 'excellent upper range and superb rhythmic drive' through Harty's *In Ireland* and attention to detail and 'long musical lines' in Gaubert's *Nocturne et Allegro Scherzando*.

A few days later, in the Mid-Somerset Festival's Bath Young Actor of the Year competition, Year 13 Drama pupil, Yvie Woods, took to the stage in the Rose Drama Studio. She used four Greek mythological female villains or victims as her theme and gave powerful

performances as Iphigenia, Medusa, Cressida and, in a devised drama, Pandora. Catching the judges' eye, Yvie was runner up in the senior competition.

Congratulations to all our talented KES pupils on your magnificent performances throughout the festival.



“Yvie is a fantastic actor who brings a wonderful maturity and sensitivity to her performances. Whether in class creating thought provoking work or on the main stage of the Wroughton whipping up a storm in *Macbeth* as a witch, she gives 100% of herself to each role. She is such a talented, focused and driven young performer – we have no doubt that she will go on to great things in the future!”

Mrs S Bird HEAD OF DRAMA

Lifting spirits

KES musicians raise funds at the RUH, Bath

A group of KES musicians performed for patients, staff, and visitors at the Royal United Hospital in Bath as part of their “Art at the Heart” programme.

Their performance not only raised funds for the RUHX charity but also touched the hearts of those who listened. The ensemble played a diverse repertoire, featuring pieces by Vivaldi and Holst, as well as songs by Katy Perry, the Beatles and the White Stripes.

The impact of supporting such a worthwhile charity was movingly captured in an email from a patient, Anne, who was receiving treatment on the day:

“I attended an appointment at the RUH, where I am being treated for cancer. I left the breast care unit sometime after 5pm and was met by the sound of fabulous musicians from your school, playing in the atrium. It was such a treat, I sat and listened for the rest of their concert and found it so uplifting. A big thank you to all involved.”



Mr R Drury DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

MUSIC MARATHON RAISES £500 FOR CHARITY!

Before the School broke up for the autumn half-term, the Wroughton Theatre was once again beating to the sound of the annual KES Music Marathon charity event.

As always, the KES community came out in force to support this energising fundraiser, with over 80 performers, bands and soloists taking to the stage to play or sing their one-minute piece from a whole host of musical genres and styles! Not only did we raise over £500 for the School's chosen charity, Moving Mountains Trust, but we further lifted the spirits of everyone in the room with loud audience participation renditions of the Beatles' *Let it Be*, and the well-known folksong, *She'll be coming 'round the Mountain!* Thank you to everyone who took part and supported this event.

Mr R Drury DIRECTOR OF MUSIC



Choral masterpieces and candlelight

For so many in our KES Community, Christmas doesn't really start until the KES Carol Service in Bath Abbey!

For those lucky enough to snap up the highly sought-after tickets were, as always, treated to a glorious repertoire of both traditional congregational carols, interwoven with a host of wonderful choral masterpieces expertly performed by our pupils.

It is hard to relay to you the moving, reverential and awe-inspiring atmosphere that was created in and around that most inspiring of buildings. With around one in eight of the Senior School pupils taking part in either the 94 strong KES Senior Singers, the auditioned KES 24 vocal ensemble, or the KES Contemporary and Festival orchestras that accompanied two of the carols – one of which was a fabulous new creation, *Mater*, by our gifted resident composer, Mr Mark Boden – performing to a mesmerised congregation, it certainly marked the joyous start of the Christmas season!

The music ranged from bold modern works by the likes of Peter Warlock and William Matthias, through to delicious classic arrangements by Rutter and Wilcocks, lingering on masterpieces by J S Bach and Peter Cornelius, and journeying right back to the five-part, polyphonic, Renaissance magnificence of Orlando di Lasso, all sung with such precision and emotional conviction.

The Service wouldn't be complete without the inclusion of the Nine Lessons, which were read by both pupils and members of staff, culminating in the ninth reading by the Headmaster.

The evening concluded with the wonderfully captivating procession of the singers, illuminating the darkened Abbey with candlelight, leaving through the Great West Door whilst singing the *Recessional* from the *Ceremony of Carols* by Benjamin Britten. It was certainly a night that heralded and celebrated the magic of Christmas!

Mr R Drury DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Macbeth

REVIEWS

Just before the end of term, KES Drama staged one of Shakespeare's best-known tragedies, *Macbeth*. In the hands of a talented cast and crew, our audiences stepped into a dark world of ambition and betrayal as a struggling and divided nation tore itself apart.

In an innovative version of the play, under the creative helm of Mrs Bird and Mr Thomas, three different versions of Macbeth and Lady Macbeth presented themselves to the audience. In turns, Macbeth was at once an ambitious businessman, ably assisted by his first lady, or else a lost, good man manipulated by his wife. A third depiction saw the couple as equals, who would do anything for their love of one another.

In reviewing the outstanding production, we were delighted to call upon the creative writing talents of both Benjamin Brown (Year 12) and Ed Goodwin (Year 13).

To read their full reviews, please visit our website: www.kesbath.com or scan the QR code:



2 SOMETHING WICKED (-LY GOOD) THIS WAY COMES

Sitting down to watch the play, the stage is already set. An eerie soundtrack patrols the Wroughton Theatre as a faint red mist hangs over the stage, foreshadowing the blood and magic that so infamously epitomise *Macbeth*. This soundtrack and mist – the first of many brilliant effects from Messrs Sellick – encircle three door frames, anticipating the trio of Macbeth and Lady Macbeth portrayals to come. We transition as the introduction – an intriguing sequence of choreography in which the cast mimics stabbing and crowning actions – makes way for our first scene: the witches on the moor.

“An awesome marriage of effects, performance and proxemics, *Macbeth* was an incredibly entertaining yet nuanced play. The changes made by the directorial team (Mrs Bird and, in his KES debut, Mr Thomas), such as the decision to have three Macbeths and Lady Macbeths, paid off immensely: what better way to exhibit the different actors' takes on Macbeth and his depth of character!”

Benjamin Brown YEAR 12 PUPIL

1 THE SCOTTISH PLAY REIMAGINED

Following the long KES Drama custom of casting several actors to one role, this performance sees the ambitious idea of three concurrent Macbeths and Lady Macbeths come to life on stage. Such a concept is no mean feat to pull off, but the portrayals of each of the three proved a tour de force in character acting. The unique concept allows the pair to be explored in depth befitting of an analytical essay, showing different interpretations of almost their every word to accurately represent the raging conflicts within the minds of the tragic heroes. The palpable chemistry between each couple makes each interaction feel genuine.

“Spread over multiple simultaneous time periods, KES Drama's *Macbeth* shows how the inherently human themes of greed, corruption and guilt are as relevant now as they were in 1606. And those timeless themes deliver a similarly timeless production – a wonderful achievement with qualities too numerous to list. Well done, to all involved, on a fantastic work of theatre!”

Ed Goodwin YEAR 13 PUPIL



Introducing Mrs Keyte as our new school archivist...

I was delighted and honoured to join KES this September as the School's archivist. I knew that the archive collection of one of the oldest schools in the country would be fascinating, and it has not disappointed so far!

It is always a privilege to work with original and unique historical records. Having studied History at Warwick University, and then qualified as an archivist, I have worked in some major heritage institutions in my career, including the Houses of Parliament, the Women's Library, Tate Britain and, most recently, as the archivist at the Royal Albert Hall.

The KES archive collection includes letters, minute books, admission registers, photographs, pictures, books, over 100 years of *The Edwardian* magazine and much, much more. We also have the original charter, signed by Edward VI, which currently resides in the Bath Record Office.

It is my responsibility to ensure that the collective history of the School is preserved and looked after. I am now cataloguing the collection to identify any objects for conservation and to make the archives accessible to the wider school community – the pupils, the staff, the parents and to Old Edwardians.

One of the most thrilling things about being an archivist is opening boxes, not knowing what they contain, and discovering the stories that lie within. It is fascinating to see how the School (and education) has changed over the years.

I am keen to involve the pupils in bringing to life some of the fascinating stories that are in the KES archives. Archives are never boring, and there is lots of repackaging, cataloguing and research that needs to be done. Fantastic experience for those pupils thinking of studying History at university or interested in a career in heritage!

As we approach the School's 475th Anniversary in 2027, it is important that the School can both appreciate and utilise these unique archives and the benefits they can bring.

FROM THE ARCHIVE

One of my most exciting finds so far as an archivist at KES has been discovering the story of Old Edwardian Geoffrey Fyson (1911), who became a well-known WWI poet. This is his KES story:

GEOFFREY FYSON
1892-1948

After WWI, former King Edward's pupil, Geoffrey Fyson, became one of the most popular and best-loved English poets of his time. His work was published in *Poetry Today*, *The Observer*, *Country Life*, *The Poetry Review*, *The Sphere* and the *Cambridge Poets*.

He started school at King Edward's, in Broad Street, at the age of nine in 1902. The family lived in Oldfield Park, and his father ran his own printing company, George Fyson and Co. A year later, his younger brother George joined Geoffrey at school, the two brothers loving their time at King Edward's, excelling at sport and academia. Obviously recognising the potential in one of their own pupils, *The Edwardian* published one of Geoffrey's poems about Napoleon's exile on St Helena in 1912. Whilst at King Edward's, Geoffrey secured a place at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge but the start of WWI in 1914 was to derail any plans for the future.

Geoffrey and his younger brother George both enlisted as soon as they could. George received his commission in the 7th Gloucester Regiment in March 1915. We know that he saw action at Gallipoli and then at the Battle of Kut in Mesopotamia (modern day Iraq).



George Fyson and the 7th Gloucester Regiment were fighting alongside troops from the Indian Expeditionary force and were attacking the Turkish trenches when George was shot and killed, aged 21 on 20th April 1916.

Letters from his Commanding Officer and a fellow serving officer were published in the *Bath Chronicle* and described George as 'universally loved and respected'.

George is remembered on the WWI memorial on the wall at KES and the Basra Memorial, Iraq. Geoffrey was devastated at the loss of his younger brother and wrote the poem, *In Memoriam G.D.F.*, which was published in *The Edwardian* magazine.

Geoffrey had joined the Sportsman's Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers and later the Devonshire Regiment. He suffered from wounds sustained in action in France and the effects of mustard gas, from which he never recovered. On 15th June 1918, Geoffrey had his poem *The Survivors* published in a national newspaper, *The Sphere*, and followed this with a book of poetry with the same name.

After the War, Geoffrey was eventually able to take up his place at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge having by then earned literary recognition as a poet with *The Survivors*. He distinguished himself at Cambridge in both sporting and academic domains, contributing poems, criticism and articles to national publications, which was later followed by a successful career in education.

He passed away on 29th January 1948 at his home in Stroud, having suffered ill health for many years. The following year, a compilation book of his poetry, *Here Comes She Home* was published.

■ Mrs S Keyte ARCHIVIST

Poignant Remembrance Ceremony

KES HONOURS
ARMISTICE DAY

On Monday 11th November 2024, the Senior School community gathered to observe a two-minute silence in a poignant act of remembrance for Armistice Day.

The silence followed a thought-provoking assembly led by the Headmaster, who shared the stories of two Old Edwardians (OEs), Geoffrey and George Fyson, who fought in the First World War. The Headmaster also read extracts from letters written by two other OEs, Harold Baggs and Glyn Machin, which were sent home from the front during the First and Second World War respectively – a sobering and humanising window into the personal lives of these two men.

The assembly included two prayers read by Mr Harrison, providing a moment of reflection for all present.



Following the assembly, the Headmaster, accompanied by a small group of the School's Combined Cadet Force (CCF) officers, led by Capt P Jones, Contingent Commander, laid a poppy wreath at the School's war memorial outside Nethersole. The ceremony was marked by the impeccable performance of *The Last Post* and *Reveille* by talented Year 10 trumpeter, Eddie Durant.

The assembly and ceremony were a solemn and respectful tribute, ensuring that the sacrifices of the past are not forgotten by the younger generation.

National Music Camp – Altcar 2024

During the October half-term holiday, 13 cadets joined some 230 others from across the UK to take part in a week of music training at Altcar Camp, Merseyside.

Cadets received expert tuition in music theory, band drill and performance, culminating in a final parade in front of Col Ashley Fulford OBE and other distinguished guests.



■ @KESBathCCF

Four of our budding musicians attended the camp as beginners, successfully completing their Corps of Drums Foundation course on the side drum. Our experienced drummers were able to make further progress in the CoD (Corps of Drums) syllabus to achieve their Two Star and Three Star music badges, which they now wear with pride.

Our instrumentalists joined the Junior Band to develop their skills on cornet, clarinet and concert flute, and even tried their hand at a spot of conducting!

For some of our cadets, music camp provided an opportunity to learn to play a second instrument. Cadet Cannock, a talented French horn player, took up the challenge of bugle at Two Star level. LCpl Chi and Sgt Byers, both accomplished drummers, took on bugle and tenor horn respectively for the first time. All made excellent progress in their musicianship and look forward to attending the next national camp at Otterburn in April.

■ Capt C Jones KES BATH CCF

SPORTS TOUR

The two-week sports tour to Canada was an adventure of a lifetime, from spirited sporting fixtures and white-water rafting, to watching the Major League Baseball team, the Toronto Blue Jays, and coaching local children – the KES tour party took every challenge in their stride, playing against highly competitive sides across the East Coast of Canada in rugby, hockey and netball.



The tour allowed each player to develop individually and as a squad, as well as the opportunity to build new friendships between year groups, which will last throughout our KES careers.

Although it was a sports tour, the packed itinerary took us to one of the natural wonders of the world, Niagara Falls, where pupils still to this day talk about the magical nature of the Falls illuminated at night and the unforgettable whirlpool rapids boating adventure!

During the tour, three Old Edwardians came to watch our games, reminiscing about their experiences of King Edward's – they even brought along KES memorabilia, illustrating the impact sport at KES has had on them.

Since the tour, each of us has returned with increased resilience, greater confidence and improved skills on the sports field. To any younger KES pupils who are thinking about going on a sports tour, this is a bucket list item, not only to explore the world but to stretch your sporting capabilities and to meet others from across the globe who share the same passion for sport as you do. Ultimately, the tour taught us all that sport is not just about playing but about being the best possible version of yourself and for your teammates, encompassing all the qualities required to carry us into later life.

We have created memories that we won't forget and have forged friendships that will last beyond school. It is no cliché that this was a life changing trip and will ultimately remain one of our fondest memories of being at KES.

■ Aidan O'Mahony and Beth Ritchie

YEAR 12

KES SPORT

It has been an exciting first term of sport at KES, with much to celebrate at all levels across many pursuits, both inside and outside of school.

With a spotlight focus on our major sports at KES, we are proud of how, as a department, we have worked hard to incorporate our key aim of making sport inclusive for everyone, helping our pupils to be the very best versions of themselves. This is achieved through our games and after school provision, alongside offering as many fixtures as possible at weekends.

In addition to this, our talented sportsmen and women continue to display high levels of dedication as they progress through the relevant pathways. There is much to celebrate across all our major sports and beyond.

■ Mrs L Gwilliam DIRECTOR OF SPORT

X @KESBathSport



RUGBY

It has been another outstanding rugby season for all the pupils involved, fielding up to 15 teams from U12 to 1st XV at weekends.

Despite a challenging fixture list, we are extremely proud of the progress made across all age groups. In the lower age groups, when other schools have been unable to field teams, we have organised internal fixtures, providing opportunities for all.

Special highlights include performances by our U14s, who had an excellent term of rugby, playing an exciting brand of the game. Hopefully, this form will continue in the Spring Term when the format changes to Rugby 7s. Both the 1st XV and 2nd XV went into the half-term unbeaten, which is a testament to all the hard work they have put in over the years, as well as the rejuvenated pre-season, thanks to the new gym. In a news article in *The Daily Mail* focusing on our senior players' outstanding performances and results, I spoke about how this has been a long-term project, working with some of these pupils since

Year 5, and how it is now coming to fruition. A perfect example was the Friday Night Lights for the 1st XV at the University of Bath. Despite the result not going our way (the team's only defeat in the term), it will be a lifelong memory for the players, coaches and parents involved, with over 500 supporters in attendance.

On an individual level, we can be extremely proud of many of our rugby players who are representing the School in the Bath Rugby Academy. We have 13 pupils in the pathway from U15 up to U18. Special mention goes to Noah Murray, Frankie Foster and Henry Derwent in Year 13, alongside current Year 12 pupils, Cade Comer and Ali Aljawabra, who were invited to the October U18 residential in preparation for the upcoming Academy League.

■ Mr S Lilley HEAD OF RUGBY

CRICKET

At the time of writing, we are in the process of preparing for an exciting pre-season cricket programme designed for both boys and girls, taking place during the Spring Term.

This initiative aims to nurture young cricket talent through comprehensive training sessions that cater for a variety of skill levels. Pupils have access to skill development sessions held at lunchtime, with specialised elite training offered before school.

The School is proud to have 15 pupils, both boys and girls, representing various counties. Among them, standout players Ava Ojomoh (Year 12) and Katy Gwilliam (Year 11) are making remarkable strides, having secured positions in regional EPP pathways.

These prestigious programmes sit above the county youth level and serve as a primary route into professional cricket, highlighting the very promising future for King Edward's young players.

■ Mr G Brown HEAD OF CRICKET



Katy Gwilliam

Ava Ojomoh

HOCKEY

As the 2024-25 academic year progresses, we continue to develop our hockey programme.

We consistently have high attendance at our after school training sessions – this has been particularly evident with our Year 7 and 8 girls, who regularly put out four squads, and on some occasions, as many as seven! At the senior end of the School, we have had a significant number of pupils choosing to continue playing hockey, with 1st to 5th XI squads taking the field for the girls and 1st to 3rd XI boys' teams.

Our teams continue to demonstrate excellent progress. The regular Saturday fixture programme has developed, playing against some of the best hockey schools in the area, while in the England Hockey Schools Championships, we have achieved great success. This season, our girls' U14s were county runners-up, qualifying for the Regional Finals at the end of November, whilst the girls' 1st XI had a successful run in the Tier 2 Championships, reaching the last 16 of the national competition.

As well as playing local schools, pupils have also had the opportunity to play further afield with recent tours taking boys and girls' hockey teams to Nottingham, Barcelona and Canada.

We continue to have a large number of players making progress in the GB Performance Pathway, with four pupils being selected into this year's cycle of GB Talent Academy, based in Bath.

Finally, we would like to congratulate Jack Boden and Ava Shaw in Year 11, who have recently been selected into their respective England U16 Hockey Squads, a huge achievement.

■ Mr P Livesey HEAD OF HOCKEY



Left: U16 Netball Squad
Right: U19 Netball Squad



NETBALL

The netball season started back in the Autumn Term, with the first round of the National Schools Competition.

This involved the U14, U16 and U19 squads competing for a place in the Regional Finals. With the high standard of local County netball, each tournament saw hotly contested games. This year, we were delighted that both our U16 and U19 squad qualified for the Regional Finals.

The netball programme works under the premise of 'engage, challenge and enjoy'. The standard of KES Netball is renowned across the South West at a performance level, but the ever-growing commitment and performances across the 21 squads we have competing on a weekly basis is the real strength of our provision. Our training programme and fixture

card accommodate progression at any level, with further touring opportunities both locally and abroad including Exeter, Bournemouth and even Dubai, providing opportunities to develop skills against new oppositions.

We continue to have numerous KES pupils progressing through the performance pathways. To date we have eight pupils within the Avon County Academy, three pupils in Vortex Academy, three pupils in the Team Bath Athletic Development Centre and two pupils in the Team Bath Performance Development Pathway. We are extremely proud of Katy Gwilliam (Year 11), who has been selected for the U17 Wales National Squad.

■ Miss R Collett

ACTING HEAD OF NETBALL

NOTABLE PUPIL SPORTING ACCOLADES BEYOND KES

We are also pleased to celebrate the success of the following pupils in their sporting endeavours outside of school:

Maia Delin (Year 12) Europa Cup Trophy 2024, representing Great Britain

Alistair Stewart (Year 13) Swindon Town U18 captain

Hester Poole (Year 13) GB Para Alpine World Class programme

Oliver Squire (Year 10) U15 National Triathlon Champion

Lilianna Marshall (Year 12) European Junior Golf Open finals in Malaga

Raffi Budd (Year 10) England Football U15 emerging talent camp

Introducing our new Head of Sixth Form...

In September, we were delighted to welcome Mr Luke Benedict to KES as our new Head of Sixth Form.

After receiving a first-class degree in English and Philosophy at the University of Bristol, Mr Benedict spent six years on Fleet Street as a sports writer, columnist and editor, covering the Olympics, World Cups and Lions tours. In that time, he wrote a book with Sir Clive Woodward on dynamic leadership, illuminating the overlaps between elite sport and big business in building thriving cultures and successful teams.

His first teaching post was at Trinity School, Croydon, where he was Head of Years 10 and 11 and led the 1st XV rugby team to their first national final. Most recently he has been Head of Sixth Form at the Royal High School and the Chair of Heads of Sixth across the GDST national network.

He also has a diploma in jazz and a passion for music, playing the saxophone, drums, piano and guitar – when he's not buried in the *London Review of Books*, struggling with a cryptic crossword, or chasing his three-year-old son in the park!



“I am already loving my time in Holbeche and feel genuinely inspired by the warmth, maturity and buzzing endeavour of our sixth formers. I feel like I've been here forever – in the best possible sense!”

Mr L Benedict
HEAD OF SIXTH FORM

SCIENCE SUCCESS

KES team win Medicine School Prize 2024

During the first half of the Autumn Term, the School was delighted to learn that a team of our Year 13 pupils, comprising Atlas Brookes, Rosie Boyd, Maddy Bobin and Annabel Rickards won Imperial College London's Science in Medicine School Team Prize 2024, after the team submitted and then presented an entry in poster format on how they would promote the health and wellbeing of individuals with scleroderma.

Commenting on the competition, Atlas Brookes explained: "In the competition, we had to come up with a poster showing our vision for solving one of the five areas of study to choose from. We ended up choosing scleroderma for our topic, as we had never heard of it. We worked as a team, researching scleroderma, its symptoms and causes to find what solution would work best. We came up with many ideas but finally decided to focus on a protein-based drug for our poster. After being shortlisted, we had to present our poster to a panel of judges. While this was daunting, it was a valuable opportunity to explain our thought processes."

“It is an incredible achievement for these four pupils to win such a prestigious competition. The experience of presenting their research at the finals event was invaluable. They spoke with confidence and knowledge, thinking quickly on their feet to answer some challenging questions from the judges. I am hugely proud of them all and how they have worked together at every stage to excel in this competition.”

Miss P Kirby ASSISTANT HEAD (TEACHER DEVELOPMENT) AND BIOLOGY TEACHER



Enhancing our higher education offering

It has been an Autumn Term of exciting development in the Sixth Form, with the enhancement of the Higher Education team as well as the rollout of digital devices to utilise the best of technology through our Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) initiative, helping to support learning in the classroom.

Mr Burns, supporting our competitive applications to Oxbridge and beyond, has been working closely with subject specialists within departments to lead critical-thinking seminars and help pupils develop the skills of intellectual dexterity they will need to evidence in the increasingly competitive market of Higher Education. Mr Mawer and Miss Kirby, managing overseas and Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary students respectively, have been providing bespoke care and counsel to the increasing number of pupils aspiring to study abroad or pursue a medical pathway.

The programme, as ever, all takes place under the watchful eye of Mr Thomas, who has also introduced Unifrog – a renowned careers and university platform – to our sixth formers this term. Whether the success of Imperial College London awards in medicine, Arkwright or Choral scholarships, Young Musician Awards or Conservatoire auditions, the sheer determination and passion of our sixth formers in pursuing their next steps is a remarkable thing to behold!

Mr L Benedict
HEAD OF SIXTH FORM



A new way to take notes

DIGITAL LEARNING @KES

In addition to achieving academic excellence, a key facet of any school is to ensure pupils are adequately prepared for life beyond the classroom.

In the modern digital world, it is crucial for pupils to have access to technology for their learning. The "bring your own device" (BYOD) scheme has provided our Sixth Form pupils with an excellent opportunity to develop their digital skills. They have been able to utilise and interact with digital notes provided by their teachers, gaining the freedom to develop innovative ways to organise their work.

Our sixth formers have impressed with their maturity and capacity to learn on digital platforms, equipping them with skills they will use at university and

beyond. This initiative has not only benefited our pupils but also our teachers, who now have access to ICT in every academic lesson. No longer do we need to book a specialist room for tasks involving technology. This provides teachers with a new toolbox of short online activities and the capacity for focused research followed by in-depth class discussions.

This seamless integration of technology into everyday learning ensures that our pupils are not only keeping pace with the digital age but are also well-prepared for the future.

Mr J Garner-Richardson
BYOD PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR

[@KESBathSixth](https://www.instagram.com/KESBathSixth)

[@KESBathSixth](https://www.instagram.com/KESBathSixth)



Broadening both minds and horizons in careers

This year, we have worked in Careers on broadening both minds and horizons.

By introducing our pupils to a wide range of speakers and encouraging our Year 11 and 12 pupils to meet with Tinker Tailor (an independent Careers advice company), we are continuing to encourage our pupils to consider careers that are both future-proof and world-changing. Pupils from Year 7 onwards are being introduced to Unifrog, a new careers platform that allows them to explore their interests in age-appropriate ways. We are looking forward to our bigger events throughout the year, including our Year 12 Mentoring evening, which will bring together professionals and pupils across a wide range of different careers. This, along with our excellent programme of speakers and our comprehensive work experience programme, allows our Year 12 pupils to reach the end of the year in a position to make the next steps that are most appropriate for them. The success of our careers programme continues to support not only our excellent UCAS department but also our pupils to gain highly competitive Degree Apprenticeships and work placements after they leave KES.

Mrs J Rees-Roberts CAREERS
EDUCATION CO-ORDINATOR

[@KESBathCareers](https://www.instagram.com/KESBathCareers)

AWARD-WINNING KES CHEMISTS

We were delighted in the autumn to congratulate our Year 13 chemists, who between them achieved five Gold, seven Silver and four Copper awards in the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge last year.

They were also among the KES pupils receiving 13 Silver and three Bronze Chemistry Olympiad certificates. The Chemistry Challenge involved a 90-minute written test and aims to take A Level pupils beyond the syllabus, encouraging them to think about science in the way they would at university.

Mr M Oehler HEAD OF SCIENCE





New play castle and bridge spark fun and adventure

During the summer break, the Junior School outdoor play area was transformed with the addition of two exciting new structures.

These were introduced following discussions and planning led by the Junior School Council, after listening to and considering their fellow pupils' suggestions. Taking pride of place in its elevated spot behind the main Junior School building, a magnificent adventure castle offers vantage points to admire the view over Bath, spaces to build dens underneath and a slide for added fun.

In addition to the castle, a wooden bridge has also been constructed near to the play trail, which weaves between the trees and provides the perfect opportunity for children to run, hide, and play games, making it an ideal escape from playground taggers!

It is wonderful to see the children involved in a project that has transformed areas of their school, as well as to see how pupil voice has a direct impact on the spaces they use regularly.

Junior School teams advance to Spring Science Final for second year running

Towards the end of the Summer Term, two teams, each comprising two Year 5 and two Year 6 pupils, competed in the National Science Finals at the University of Oxford.

After a challenging competition, featuring 30 questions, we were thrilled to learn that one of our teams secured third place in the country, showcasing their exceptional Science knowledge and teamwork skills.



Our success in the competition has continued this year, with four Junior School teams going through to the Semi-Final, including one which took first place in the regional round, thereby booking their place in the Final in the spring. All four teams were among the top 20 schools out of 81 taking part. Congratulations to everyone involved and good luck in the final!

■ **Mr C Carter** KEJS SCIENCE AND ENRICHMENT CO-ORDINATOR

EMPOWERING YOUNG VOICES

KEJS launches its Pupil Parliament



The Junior School has recently been considering how we harness our Pupil Voice to give ownership and empowerment to our pupils.

As part of this project, we have launched our brand-new Pupil Parliament initiative containing several committees, each with their own specific focus and covering an array of different aspects of school life. Members will carry out work such as observations and audits, surveys and interviews, some of which have already begun.

The House Committee, which is supported by two Senior School Prefects, Ed and Tallulah, has already researched and presented an assembly inviting pupils to vote for the charities they would most like the School to support this year.

The Sustainability Committee has held its initial 'expression of interest' meeting with pupils, bringing some insightful and exciting new ideas to further embed and take forward the Whole School Sustainability Strategy.

This is just the start of the project, and we are looking forward to introducing more opportunities as the year progresses. We know that our children have incredibly creative ideas and, most importantly, lots and lots of passion about their school, and we hope to harness this for the benefit of the whole school community.

■ **Mrs C Webb** KEJS TEACHER AND PUPIL VOICE CO-ORDINATOR



A CELEBRATION OF ALL THINGS MUSICAL

Junior School pupils were treated to an absolute feast of music during Music Week in October. Every day, the School celebrated music in all its wonderful forms.

We loved hearing the Senior School musicians play to us in our assemblies, which included performances by KES Baroque, the advanced Flute Ensemble, Cello Group, KES Soul, KES 24 and the Senior Brass ensemble, to name but a few. For the younger children to hear such high level performances by fellow pupils was truly inspiring.

One of the many highlights was hearing KES24 perform in the library, where the whole of the Junior School gathered to listen to their beautiful singing. The Junior School Orchestra joined with the Senior School to play the music they have been learning, including George Ezra's *Shotgun*, which sounded amazing!

All the children took part in Japanese Taiko drumming workshops, which was lots of fun. The children loved being invited to "let rip" and make the biggest sound they could on the oversized drums! The music continued at breaktime too, with a musical treasure hunt and Year 5 pupils teaching the staff how to play the Indonesian Gamelan!

The 'Busk Stop' was another hit, with pupils and staff performing in the foyer – it was also wonderful to see both Mr Price and the Headmaster, Mr Boden, singing together!

At the end of the week, we all enjoyed an amazing assembly featuring a professional oboist and trumpet player, which also included every KEJS pupil playing body percussion as the performers played Ravel's *Bolero*.

Music Week was an enriching celebration, which brought our school community together and showed the true power of music.

■ **Mrs C Hutchings** KEJS AND PRE-PREP DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Books, laughter, imagination and creativity

It's official: the 2024 Bath Children's Literature Festival has been the best one yet!

Adam Kay and Henry Paker had Year 3 pupils in fits of giggles with their comedic combination of terrific text and illustrations, while Year 4 were in awe of the magical Katherine Rundell, who shared her belief in the power of stories, books and the imagination. Our Year 5 pupils have been transformed into avid unicorn readers and riders

following their visit to see awesome author, A F Steadman, whilst Matt Goodfellow left Year 6 pupils on a high after some powerful poetry, encouraging us all to "...find a shape for the thoughts we carry," because our voice matters. How lucky we are to have this amazing festival on our doorstep – it is truly inspirational!

■ **Mrs E Heaney**

KEJS ENGLISH, DRAMA AND LIBRARY CO-ORDINATOR



Year 6 managed to grab a photo with Matt Goodfellow, author of *The Final Year* and *Tomorrow We Begin*.

Team Building

Obstacle courses and bubble football

In October, our Year 5 pupils enjoyed a morning of team building activities designed to foster collaboration, communication and listening skills.

They faced three exciting challenges: navigating an obstacle course while carrying ten cups of water on a wooden board without spilling any, transporting tennis balls using three pieces of guttering without letting

them touch the ground, and playing bubble football in giant inflatable bubbles! The morning was filled with fun, as well as excellent communication, and ended on a sweet note with a delicious doughnut treat!

■ **Mr C Carter** KEJS SCIENCE AND ENRICHMENT CO-ORDINATOR



✕ @KESBathJunior

Introducing our new Deputy Head...

At the beginning of the Autumn Term, we welcomed Mr John Ireland as our new Deputy Head at the Junior School.

Starting his teaching career with a PGCE in primary education from the University of Reading, Mr Ireland's first role was in the state sector, where he gained his SENCO qualification before moving to Ashford Prep School as Head of Learning Support. During this time there, he completed his Master's in Education before joining Crosfields School as Head of Juniors (Year 3 and 4). In 2021, Mr Ireland took on the role of Deputy Head (Academic) at the same school, as well as becoming part of the Independent Schools Inspectorate Team and a local school governor.

In addition to his educational interests, Mr Ireland is looking forward to exploring Bath and the surrounding areas with his young family and hopefully getting to watch some rugby!



“It was with great excitement that I joined King Edward's Junior School. From the moment I met the staff and leadership team here I knew this was a setting that I wanted to be part of, one that puts the pupils at the forefront of everything they do and which provides a fantastic breadth of education.”

Mr J Ireland
JUNIOR SCHOOL DEPUTY HEAD

U11 BOYS SHINE AT IAPS RUGBY FESTIVAL

On the 5th November, the Junior School welcomed five independent schools to an IAPS Rugby Tournament, held at our Bathampton Playing Fields.

The schools included Cheltenham College Prep School, Bristol Grammar School, The Richard Pate School, Monmouth School Boys' Prep and Cathedral School, Llandaff. Each team played in rounds, with the final match being played against the school with the closest comparable results.

The matches were played with fantastic spirit and great enthusiasm, displaying an impressive level of skill for the U11 age group. KES demonstrated resilience and perseverance as they battled through a morning of tough fixtures, learning key lessons from each game. They applied themselves commendably, adjusting and better organising in

defence and moving the ball more effectively to score more tries in attack. Our pupils were excellent sports ambassadors for the School, epitomising the key values of rugby and upholding fantastic standards of sportsmanship throughout the festival.

■ **Mr A Rousell**
KEJS HEAD OF BOYS' GAMES



YEAR 6 ENJOY A WILD DAY OUT

LINKING ANIMALS WITH SCIENCE

In September, Year 6 pupils delved into the fascinating world of animals to discover how they adapt to their habitats.

The excitement was infectious, as the children explored Cotswold Wildlife Park, connecting animal features to their science lessons and learning new facts about various species. Among their favourite animals were the sloth and the red panda!

The children also had the chance to meet zookeepers, who shared insights about meerkats, prairie dogs, otters and penguins. Did you know that penguins have evolved to swim underwater with solid bones instead of hollow ones, have paddle-like flippers, and can reach speeds of up to 20 kilometres per hour! It was a wonderful day of scientific learning outside the classroom.

■ **Mr C Carter** KEJS SCIENCE AND ENRICHMENT CO-ORDINATOR



Year 4 budding artists

With thoughts of harvest and autumn trees in our minds, Year 4 pupils made jewel like drawings of the natural world on handmade paper.

We started by drawing trees around the Junior School meadow, then moved inside to look at paintings of nature by the British romantic artist, Samuel Palmer. The children learnt to create a composition using foreground, middle ground and background, and then added texture using a dip pen. Each field has a different texture, like a natural patchwork. Although these are drawings of now, the use of sepia ink gives them a timeless quality that harks back to a rural past. The artwork, which the children created, was simply amazing. It never ceases to amaze me how wonderfully creative our pupils are!

■ **Mr J Roberts-Wray** KEJS HEAD OF ART



HARVEST CELEBRATION

Inspiring gratitude and generosity in our school community

Harvest is an important part of the School's spiritual calendar, offering pupils the opportunity to reflect on the joy which nature can bring, whilst also thinking about ways to show gratitude for our food.

This year, the children shared their ideas about harvest in vibrant and imaginative ways, through a blend of artwork, drama and poetry, clearly expressing how thankful they feel. 5C's scarecrow, adorned with thoughtful reflections, was a real highlight and, as always, the children's beautiful singing lifted everyone's spirits! Grace and Logan, our Head Girl and Head Boy, helped us to focus on the theme of 'Generosity', explaining why our annual collection for the Bath Foodbank is so important to so many families across our city. Reverend Roger, from St Michael's Without Church, ably assisted by some Year 6 volunteers, used the letters from the word HARVEST to help us to think about how we can serve others and to help those who are less fortunate, not just at harvest time, but throughout the entire year, reflecting our values to look out for and support others.

■ **Mrs R Barrett** KEJS RELIGIOUS STUDIES CO-ORDINATOR



Year 3 Master Chefs

Each class in the Junior School does a cooking module as part of their Design and Technology lessons, as learning to cook and eat well is a vital life skill. In this module, Year 3 pupils learn about 'healthy eating', and the recipes we cook reflect this.

In their DT lesson, the children made a low-sugar granola cereal, a date-based chocolate snack and a delicious minestrone soup. Working safely whilst cooking is a key skill, and children learnt to peel and cut vegetables correctly,

as well as operate appliances like our induction hobs and food processors. The children really enjoyed using the electric blenders to whisk cream to make their own butter! Tasting, as you would expect, is an important part of the process, and the children are inevitably very keen to do the first taste test, but there is always plenty to take home and share with family, too!

■ **Mr J Roberts-Wray**
KEJS HEAD OF DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY





AUTUMN ADVENTURES

NURSERY'S PUMPKIN PATCH AND COZY CAMPFIRES

Crunchy leaves, orange paint, woodland creatures, pumpkins and campfires... it must be autumn – and what a busy autumn we have had!

This year, the Nursery children enjoyed exploring the pumpkin patch in Teddy's Garden. The bumpy terrain wasn't easy but, with a bit of teamwork, we all managed a very wiggly route from the classroom down to the garden with our wheelbarrows. The journey back was even more challenging, with an unruly pumpkin wobbling around!

Mrs Hutchings taught us a very catchy song about hedgehogs, which we performed in our Harvest Celebration to parents – hedgehog hats were an essential accessory!

Due to the inclement weather, the need for small cosy spaces was key. We huddled around campfires and toasted marshmallows, snuggled up with cosy autumn reads and, in the classroom, made small autumnal scenes.

Autumn can't pass without a small whisper of Halloween. The orange paint came out and we literally got stuck in making junk model pumpkins. It wasn't easy cutting the tricky cardboard, but we persevered and, with the addition of a twinkly tealight, completed our creations beautifully.

■ **Mrs A Moores**
NURSERY TEACHER

WELLY WALKS AND SEASONAL DELIGHTS

"Whatever the weather" is our motto at the Pre-Prep.

We are always out and about, and the children just love it! In Year 1 and 2 you will find us writing weather reports, preparing our gardens for planting fruit and vegetables, building windsocks to discover the way the wind blows and making rain gauges to record the local rainfall. We are real weather experts once we reach the end of Year 2!

This enthusiasm for the great outdoors begins in the Early Years, with our youngest children in Nursery and Reception, and grows as they progress through the School. Our Welly Walks are undoubtedly one of our favourite outings; just ask anyone at the Pre-Prep! With each seasonal change, the children pull on their wellington boots and head out with their friends and grown-ups to explore the paths, grassy areas and walkways in and around the School. Over the course of the year, the pupils explore the local area, immersing themselves in the many changes experienced with the passing of the seasons. Surrounded by nature, the children develop an understanding of time and their own sensory awareness.



When we return to the warm and cosy classrooms for hot chocolate and seasonal stories, the children reflect on the changes they've observed by creating artwork of a very special tree, Mr Beech, aptly named by the 2023 Reception pupils!

■ **Mrs S Knight** EARLY YEARS CO-ORDINATOR AND RECEPTION TEACHER



Forest School

STORIES, SKILLS AND OUTDOOR FUN

At the Pre-Prep we are committed to giving children a fun, creative weekly session of outdoor learning in our Forest School.

Time spent in nature, exploring what it means to be part of the natural world is a powerful way for pupils to learn, and the children are encouraged to explore and play in their own way. Mrs Wells and Mrs Moores take the sessions and are continuously developing the Forest School programme.

These lessons can be linked to the seasons, to a range of different topics, the class curriculum or learning specific skills that the children can take back and use in the classroom. During their Forest School lessons, the children are also taught skills that help them to care for their environment, develop their creative thinking and develop qualities to help them succeed in the wider world, such as resilience, independence, self-belief and happiness.

In the Autumn Term, the children focused on different Julia Donaldson stories and based learning activities around them. Using the stories, pupils built homes for *The Smeds and the Smoos*, told their own stories of *The Gruffalo* through story frames using natural materials, made enormous giants using large pieces of wood and foraged natural materials. They developed their woodworking skills by making scarecrows and then dressed these for a 'scarecrow wedding', which was lots of fun. And of course we can't forget the hazy campfires, the cheerful songs and delicious hot chocolate!

■ **Mrs M Wells** FOREST SCHOOL CO-ORDINATOR AND RECEPTION TEACHER



An unforgettable bubble and musical experience

On a grey, damp day in October, our spirits were lifted by the wonderfully talented performers of Bubble Bach.

The children were introduced to a range of wind and string instruments, which included a recorder, an oboe, a violin and even a cor anglais. They listened to the wonderful sounds the instruments made, and we were all inspired. As the musicians played the beautiful classical pieces composed

by J S Bach, bubbles within bubbles (literally) floated above the children's heads, filling the hall. It was clear from the excited expressions on the children's faces and the constant gasps of amazement that the pupils at the Pre-Prep thoroughly enjoyed the mesmerising musical bubble-art experience.

■ **Ms J Gilbert** HEAD OF THE PRE-PREP AND NURSERY



INTRODUCING TWO NEW MEMBERS OF STAFF TO THE PRE-PREP

MRS E THOMAS

Teaching Assistant and After-School Supervisor

Moving from Exam Invigilator at the Senior School to my new role as a Teaching Assistant at the Pre-Prep has been a daunting, but also an enriching and fulfilling experience.

From day one, I have been welcomed into a supportive environment, where colleagues are always on hand to offer advice and guidance. There have been some 'deer in the headlights' moments, and their insights and experience have been invaluable.

Each day presents so many new opportunities for reflective learning. Whether it's fine-tuning my understanding of classroom strategies or finding innovative ways to engage with pupils, I am

constantly learning and adapting.

I take pride in bringing enthusiasm and positivity to the classroom every day. I aim to create a supportive and encouraging atmosphere that helps children feel confident in their abilities. This positive mindset not only helps the children but also enhances my own experience, ensuring I maintain the energy I need to be a supportive role model.

The School's ethos of inclusivity and fostering a love for learning aligns with my own values, making me feel like a true part of the KES community.



MRS H ECCLES

Pre-Prep SENCo and Learning Support Teacher

During my interview day for the post of Learning Support Co-ordinator, I was struck by the calm, nurturing atmosphere throughout the School. This was particularly evident in the Wellbeing Room, or 'Teddy's Den'.

Across my 30-year teaching journey, I had never before come across a room dedicated to wellbeing. Early on in my career I became interested in finding out why some children struggled to learn and why some children experienced anxiety.

This led to my decision to move into the area of Learning Support.

I have now had the pleasure of seeing the enormous benefit of the Wellbeing Room. It is a safe space in times of distress or dysregulation – it is easy to imagine how calming it can be to crawl into the sensory tent with light up cubes and a weighted blanket to soothe the senses.

The Wellbeing Room has many uses; it is an area for small group work away from the busyness of the classroom, it provides enough space and a wide variety of equipment to work on fine and gross motor skills and it is the centre for our Emotional Literacy Support Assistant to work with children one-to-one. I feel very lucky to work in a school that puts wellbeing at the heart of the children's school experience.



Sparking young imaginations

VISITING AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR

Pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 were very excited to welcome author and illustrator team, Helen Docherty and Steve Lenton, to share their new book, *The Green-Fingered Witch*.

The story is based at Witch School, where the main character, Cress, finds that she is not very good at being a witch, but then saves the day by using her green-fingered skills to grow pumpkins for the Halloween celebrations. The children loved the story and its illustrations, particularly the picture of Cress's garden bursting with pumpkins!

Helen and Steve talked to the children about their work as an author and illustrator. The children were intrigued to see the first ever book that Helen created when she was only six years old! This inspired the children to start writing their own story books, with many wondering if they too might become a famous author one day.

Steve led a drawing activity, teaching the children how to draw Cress the Witch. By breaking it down into simple shapes and lines, all the children were able to reproduce the illustration and were very proud of their finished pictures.



Another book-related treat came in December, when the Head Prefects from the Senior School came over to read their favourite stories to the children. The younger children listened with real engagement.

The children at the Pre-Prep love reading and listening to stories. They join in group reading sessions three times a week, sharing a book with their peers and learning how to add expression when reading aloud. These sessions build confidence, as the children read the same book several times, becoming very fluent by the third read. Time is spent talking about the story, to help the children develop skills of comprehension and comparison. The progress in their reading as they move through the school is fantastic to see.

■ Mrs E Rocksborough Smith
YEAR 1 TEACHER



A FESTIVAL OF LIGHT!

Year 1 pupils spent a day immersed in colourful diya lamps, yummy coconut barfis and Diwali stories. The children listened to parents share their own experiences of celebrating Diwali, before getting stuck into their own celebrations!

The morning started with an introduction to Bandi Chhor Diya lamps. The children were taught the importance of the lamps and discussed where we might find them in our homes. We then made our very own, using clay and gems; they looked amazing!

In the afternoon, we started with some Diwali stories, before making our own lanterns and barfi sweets. The children worked hard to create the lanterns and apply the coloured paper to make a unique design!

The day finished with the making of barfi sweets. A combination of desiccated coconut, condensed milk and some food colouring made yummy and slightly messy sweets for us to enjoy!

At the Pre-Prep, we are always keen to learn about a wide range of celebrations around the world. We love exploring different cultures and listening to people share their own experiences; we cannot wait to celebrate more festivals throughout the year!

■ Miss K Barnsley PRE-PREP
DEPUTY HEAD AND YEAR 1 TEACHER



Year 2 celebrate the moon festival

Year 2 pupils enjoyed celebrating the Mid-Autumn Festival, more commonly known as the Moon Festival.

This festival is celebrated in many Asian countries, and in China it is the second largest festival after the Lunar New Year. It falls on the fifteenth day of the eighth month in the traditional Chinese Lunar Calendar, and this year it was celebrated on the 17th September 2024.

On the night of the festival, communities celebrate the full moon and give thanks for the autumn harvest. There are many stories associated with the festival, the most famous being about the moon goddess Chang'e. In the story, Chang'e swallows a magic potion so that she can live forever. However, it made her fly to the moon, where she has lived ever since with her friend, the Jade Rabbit. As part of our celebrations, the Year 2 children made their own beautiful collages illustrating this story. Look carefully and you will spot the Jade Rabbit in each of the children's pictures!

■ Mrs J Carter YEAR 2 TEACHER



Christmas festivities



December is always a special and magical time for the Pre-Prep children.

The change in the daily routines as they rehearse for the different performances, all the art and craft work associated with making cards and decorations, creating wreaths in Gardening Club and baking cakes and mince pies all add a festive sparkle and aroma to the School.

This Christmas had its traditional selection of songs, dancing, poetry recitals and acting. The festive season was opened in the beautiful surroundings of Weston All Saints Church, where the Year 2 pupils led this year's Christingle Service. The church glowed magically as all the children lit their Christingles and listened to Year 2 perform a series of seasonally related poems, Christmas songs and carols. It was lovely to see so many parents and grandparents sharing in the celebration.

A week later, Reception and Year 1 pupils put on a dazzling performance of acting and singing in their version

of the Nativity play, *Born in a Stable*, in front of their parents and grandparents – they were all stars!

The festive joy went on right through to the very end of the term, with a stunning performance from the Senior School Brass Band playing carols for the Pre-Prep children to sing along to. During the last week of term, the Nursery children, wearing their Christmas jumpers, gathered around the Christmas tree in the hall and sang Christmas songs to their parents. It was a lovely and gentle reminder to us all about the true message of Christmas. Money raised from the two Christmas Jumper Days went to support Save the Children.

The other highlights of the festive season were Mrs Mortimer's and Mrs Sobers' excellent Christmas lunch and the Reindeer Run to raise money for the Dorothy House Trust, as well as the visit from Father Christmas.

All in all, it was a wonderful end to a very busy term, with lots of new learning and lots of festivals to enjoy.

■ Mr S Boydell YEAR 2 TEACHER



Bath Orchestral Gala Concert 2025

KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL AND BATH PHILHARMONIA
PARTNERSHIP PERFORMANCE



H O M E

FEATURING MUSIC BY

Sally Beamish

Aaron Copland

Franz Joseph Haydn

Mark Knopfler

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Laura Shighihara

Ralph Vaughan Williams

AND OUR RESIDENT COMPOSER

Mark Boden

Wednesday 19 March
The Guildhall, Bath

Doors open from 6.30pm
Performance at 7.00pm

Full details can be found on our website:

www.kesbath.com



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