



Here is our Spring term newsletter! We hope you enjoy it!

Welcome from the Chief Master & Principal, Kirsty von Malaisé

The Spring term has been wonderfully full, and the ambition of our girls and staff is always to be admired. The Senior Production 'The Great Gatsby' was a particular highlight, and it sat alongside a string of successes in concerts and national finals that have shown KEHS girls achieving the highest accolades. The Badminton team have seen two National finals so far – the National Schools Final is this Sunday, 29 March and the same team came second in the School Sport Magazine National School Cup Final. We also reached the final of the Swimming Nationals, the U13 Swimming team achieving 10th place.



Culture Week and Neurodiversity Week brought the community together in thoughtful and celebratory ways, reminding us of the strength we draw from openness, mutual respect, and belonging. Our careers speed-networking event, which was, as ever, supported by our OEs, was lively and informative for the girls. Perhaps not quite as lively as our annual Dance Show, a sell-out, which saw over 200 girls performing and/or choreographing their numbers - energetic and expressive in equal measure!

Finally, it has been a joy to welcome back nearly 80 KEHS OEs for reunions this term. Seeing former pupils return, reconnecting with each other and with the schools, is always deeply heartening, and a reminder of the lifelong bonds that begin here. We were treated at the Gemstones reunion to a fascinating lecture courtesy of OE Lucy Smith, whose research at Girton College into the role of Cambridge women at Bletchley Park has uncovered strong links back to KEHS and erstwhile Headmistress Miss Major. Who should be surprised that KEHS girls were quietly applying their great intellects, even before such time as they were able to be awarded degrees.



Speed Networking Event

Thank you to all the Old Eds who volunteered during our busy Careers Week, offering us a feast of insights into different career pathways and roles.

The Careers Week culminated with our very popular Speed Networking Event. There was a real buzz in having a room full of Old Eds, parents, academics and local professionals all sharing their different career stories with our pupils. As pupils rotated around the different stations, they had the opportunity to ask questions and hear about a range of sectors and career choices, skills and qualifications.

If you would like to get involved with any future careers events you can express your interest by emailing us at oldeds@keschools.org.uk.

Are you a member of the Personal Finance Society?

We are looking to connect with any Old Eds who are members of the Personal Finance Society and may be part of the pro bono schools outreach network 'My Personal Finance Skills Programme'.

This network provides schools and colleges with free financial education workshops nationally. If you are already part of the 'My Personal Finance Skills Programme' we would love to invite you into school so, please let us know by emailing oldeds@keschools.org.uk. If you are not part of the programme you can find out more [here](#).

Becky Cuthbert, Head of Careers



The Great Gatsby Production

This year's Senior Production was an original retelling of *The Great Gatsby* written by our very own Ms Proops and Mr Edwards!

The production had a unique spin upon which the characters of the book are characters within an in-universe film, giving the play a unique sense of identity and accessibility to a modern

audience.

From the first read-through, it was clear how ambitious this undertaking was going to be, and as the dates drew closer, the magnitude of the task at hand started to seem daunting, and difficult to conceive how all these moving parts could possibly slot together. However, the most memorable experience was the moment that everything did come together, and everyone could finally see the vision before them!

Ultimately, the show was an amazing experience and the audiences absolutely loved it! Bravo!

Culture Week

This Culture Week has shown KEHS at its best and most lively, from the colourful decorations in the hall to the beautiful music played in the mornings. Culture was alive in every room you walked into and every person you met.

The week saw so many different cultures and identities on display and it was wonderful that each one of them could be celebrated. It was also so lovely to hear how passionate and happy people were when talking about their favourite traditions and memories.

Events this year included cultural storytelling and an afterschool Iftar, a cultural debate, salsa night, and throughout, delicious food representing multiple continents was served in the dining hall throughout the week.



Cleobury Mortimer Residential

The annual weekend trip to Cleobury Mortimer gave pupils the opportunity to hone their musical skills through rehearsals, while also strengthening friendships through activities such as bouncy castles and energetic barn dancing. It was a wonderful weekend full of joy and excitement, and it helped bring the music together in preparation for the Choral and Orchestral

Concerts. And what a real triumph these concerts were!

Both the Choral Society and Symphony Orchestra performed excellently, and a great sense of well-deserved pride was felt by all involved.

Dance Production

The KEHS community recently celebrated the incredible success of Dance Production 2026: *ICONS*, a vibrant and inspiring showcase of talent, creativity, and teamwork.

This year's production brought together an outstanding 201 dancers, who performed 38 diverse pieces across 10 different dance styles, ranging from contemporary and Bollywood to commercial, street, and Chinese fan dance.



After months of hard work, rehearsals, and collaboration, the dancers delivered a powerful series of performances that paid tribute to the icons who have shaped music, art, and culture. The scale and ambition of *ICONS* made it one of our most memorable productions to date. Audiences were captivated by the energy, professionalism, and passion displayed on stage, reflecting the dedication of every pupil involved. The production not only celebrated legendary figures but also showcased the emerging icons within our own school community.

We are incredibly proud of all the dancers, dance committee, choreographers and backstage crew who contributed to this unforgettable event. *ICONS* stands as a testament to what KEHS pupils can achieve when creativity and commitment come together.

Sports News

The under-16 badminton team have once again secured their place at Nationals after a clean sweep in the Midland round of the cup. They followed this impressive performance by finishing 2nd in the country in the national knockout competition. We are incredibly proud of the girls and all they have achieved and wish them the very best for their final competition of the year in the National Cup.



It has been a packed schedule for our football teams too. The under-13s are to play against Oxford High in the last-16 of the School Sport Magazine Cup. The under-15s faced Shrewsbury in their cup fixture, which went to penalties after an exciting game on the front pitch. With several outstanding saves, and the team's calm finishing they secured their place in the next round.





Neurodiversity Celebration Week

Last week, our school proudly took part in Neurodiversity Celebration Week, a global initiative designed to recognise and value the many different ways people think, learn, and experience the world. It was a vibrant and meaningful week filled with learning and collaboration across our whole community.

Pupils attended assemblies exploring what neurodiversity means and why it matters. They discussed Nena Kalu, Turner Prize Artist, challenged common misconceptions and encouraged everyone to celebrate the unique ways our brains work.

One of the most impactful moments of the week was a dedicated session where teachers had the opportunity to learn directly from neurodivergent pupils. Pupils spoke candidly about their experiences in the classroom, what helps them thrive, and what small changes can make a big difference. This honest and collaborative dialogue strengthened understanding across the school and reinforced our commitment to ensuring every pupil feels supported and valued.

To round off the week, pupils hosted a joint Neurodiversity Celebration Fair with Beaufort House. The event brought the school community together, to raise awareness as well as raise money for charity. Fidget tools were sold, pupils and members of staff enjoyed playing table tennis and many people took a quiz to find out their brain type. Thank you to everyone who helped to make the week such a success.



Gemstones Reunion

In February, the Development and Alumni Relations Office warmly welcomed back alumni from the classes of 1966, 1976 and 1986, alongside guests from other year groups across both KEHS and KES.

The day began with a welcome reception, where Chief Master & Principal, Kirsty von Malaisé, greeted guests and shared an update on school life today. Kirsty then handed over to our guest speaker, Lucy Smith (OE 2020), who delivered a fascinating talk on codebreaking at Bletchley Park and its historical links with KEHS.

Following the morning activities, guests made their way for a delightful buffet lunch, following which our wonderful Sixth Formers gave guided tours of the school. The reunion concluded with year group photos and more catching up over tea and coffee. It was a lovely end to a day full of warmth and shared history.

Class of 1986 Reunion

We were delighted to welcome back over 50 Old Edwardians from KES and KEHS as they celebrated 40 years since leaving school. The evening was filled with shared memories, nostalgia, and plenty of catching up. As a group that usually hosts their reunion away from school, it was a delight to be able to host them at school this year!



There was plenty of time for guests to reconnect and reminisce about their school days and a carefully curated 1980s playlist set the backdrop for the evening! Special thanks to Paul Hill (1986) for liaising with the Development and Alumni Relations Office to make this such a success.



Keynotes

We are full steam ahead with gathering together all the contributions for Keynotes 2025-26!

Thank you to all of those who have already sent in items for the 'News in Brief' section - they are delightful to read and cover such a wide range of topics! If anyone is now thinking they wish they had sent in a contribution - it's not too late!!! We still have room for a few more items!!

We ask for around 2-300 words and a photo to go alongside your piece, and please then send them to d.macleod@keschools.org.uk.

KEVI ACS Conference 2026 - Reminder

The King Edward VI (KEVI) African and Caribbean Society (ACS) Conference 2026, will take place at the University of Birmingham on Monday, 22 June 2026 to celebrate the history, present and future, of 'Standing Firm in Power and Pride'.

KES and KEHS ACS, is our annual event celebrating our diverse school communities across all 14 KEVI Schools. If you would like to attend or be a speaker on the day, please [click here](#).



Miss Brechon-Smith, Miss D McKee & Miss D Mckee



Tuesday 28th April - Tolkien Lecture

Join us for our upcoming 2026 Tolkien Lecture: *An Evening with Vikram Banerjee (OE 2002) and Ragi Singh (OE 1994)*. See article above. [Tickets available here](#).

Saturday 6th June - Milestones Reunion

Did you leave KEHS in 1996, 2006 or 2016? Then we want to see you at your reunion in June! Join us for an evening of nostalgia and reminiscing, joint with KES. Tickets are £46.50 and you can [book your place here](#).

Friday 11th September - University Networking

Did you leave KEHS in or after 2021 and are currently studying at University or just graduated? Then you are invited back to KEHS to network with some of our current sixth formers about all things University! The afternoon is free to attend and you can [book your place here](#).

Spring has finally arrived. We hope you are enjoying warmer, drier days!