

King Edward VII School & Language College



NEWSLETTER

December 2011

Message from Mrs B Jackson, Headteacher.



'BSF Project two thirds complete'

In April we were delighted to be handed the keys to our brand new sports facilities located behind the Lewis Building.

As well as a sports hall the facility also boasts a fitness suite and a teaching room with the latest IT facilities.

In May we were also able to move into the first refurbished section of the building. We are delighted with the quality and the new facilities.

These facilities include an Independent Learning Centre for Sixth Form students and a bespoke family learning centre.

Pictures of the refurbished section and the STEM Centre feature on this page. In early November we moved into what is probably the most exciting part of the project, the STEM Centre. (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). We are delighted that this section of the programme has been delivered well ahead of schedule. More details of this can be found on the school website.



Beverley Jackson
Above, a view inside the STEM Centre.

Facts and figures

November 2010—work started on site.

April 2011—Sports Hall completed.

May 2011— Refurbishment 1 completed.

November 2011— Refurbishment 2 completed. STEM Centre opens.

July 2012—final completion

www.kes@sheffield.sch.uk

Sports Hall Athletics Competition

Nether Green on track to reclaiming the title!!

Primary schools throughout the King Edward VII and Myers Grove families came together last month to compete in a Sports Hall Athletics Competition. The event was held on Wednesday 17th October 2011 at King Edwards Sports Hall and 80 pupils from Nether Green Junior School, St Mary's, Walkley and Rivelin tried their hardest to out run, out throw and out jump each other in what turned out to be a very exciting competition.

Congratulations must go to the eventual winners, Nether Green Junior School who will go forward to the next round, which will be held on Thursday 8th December at Fir Vale Community School.

Nether Green are well on their way to regaining the title of South Yorkshire Sports Hall Athletics Champions, which they won in 2009. Well done to all pupils who took part and especially to all the pupils from King Edwards who helped to run and judge the event. Without our Young Leaders doing such an efficient job, the event would be very difficult to run. So thank you to: Tom Smeeton, Natasha Wroe, Molly Taube, Molly O'Toole Alex Kinch, Catherine Brimacombe, Annie Chambers, Lizzie Cooper, Kaethe Ukin, Megan Fearne, Daisy Pound, Molly Hutchinson, Catriona Murray, Ayesha Khan and Mia Suckling.

GEOGRAPHY FIELD WORK

The Geography Department's annual visit to Dorset took place in October. The field visit lasted for four days with students travelling down to stop in Swanage on the Monday. Over the course of the next four days, students guided by Mr Hutchinson, Mr



Russell and Miss Garside, completed field work that would help them towards their AS studies in Geography. Students visited the beautiful coastline with famous features such as Lulworth Cove and Durdle Door, finding out why this coastline has become favoured for development.

The residential to Dorset was



a great success - with lots of hard work by the students and lots of laughter. Field work is a huge part of the AS Geography course, where further visits will take place to look at regeneration and rebranding in Sheffield, Bakewell and the Olympic site in London.



WICKED WASTE

On the 9th November a group of eleven Year 9 students attended the annual Wicked Waste Conference at St Mary's Conference Centre, Bramall Lane. This is a Sheffield City Council initiative which is designed to encourage young people to respect and care for the local environment. This year's conference theme was 'Love Where You Live'. The event was opened by the Lord Mayor of Sheffield, Councillor Dr S Dunkley who welcomed the participants and stated how important it is for young people to take responsibility for the care of their local area. During the day conference delegates attended a series of workshops relating to poetry in the environment, urban forestry, making your voice heard and environmental maintenance. This is the sixth time that KES students have attended the Wicked Waste Conference and all the participants had a very fulfilling experience. Members of the conference organising team thanked the KES students for their involvement in the various activities and commented on how confident, articulate and polite they all were.

If you fancy learning a little Japanese or Italian, KES is the place to go!



The next time someone tells you that languages aren't valued in British schools, point them in the direction of King Edward VII school. The fact alone that they entered 83% of their students for a languages GCSE last year (higher than any other state school and some private schools in the city) and achieved excellent results is impressive enough. But they also achieved outstanding results in Japanese, Italian and Urdu.

Japanese has been running at KES for 15 years. In 2001 the school began to offer a GCSE and then an A-level course. Since then the school hasn't looked back and this year achieved 100% A*-B at GCSE. These outstanding results are not the result of drilling exam technique but of engaging students through the culture of Japan. KES's inspirational Japanese teacher, Sachiko Yamaguchi, explains:

"We bring culture into everything we do in the classroom. We bring in Manga artists and Karate teachers to work with our students and they learn Japanese board games and Origami. Every year we have a Japa-

nese trip to London. We visit the Japanese embassy, go to the British museum and have a Japanese picnic. Once every two years we have the Japan trip. We have links with schools in Tokyo, Kyoto and Kawasaki city with whom we exchange work, letters and pictures throughout the course. We then go and visit the schools on the trip. For many of our students this is one of the highlights of their time at KES"

This fun, cultural approach to learning a language is also central to Sarah Evans' Italian classes:

"Italian classes are run like a lunchtime club, but there is also an academic outcome at the end of it. You have to tread the tightrope between making students want to come in a lunch time, and getting the results" And get the results she does, with 100% of her class getting A*-C grades at GCSE and over half of them getting an A. AS Italian is also taught and the success is clear when Mrs Evans points out that she has former students studying Italian at Oxford, Cambridge and Warwick universities.

A highlight of the course is the exchange trip to Pisa, and it's a full immersion experience. Italian railway carriages become classrooms, ticket inspectors confronted with the sight of a carriage full of English students singing grammar songs and frantically scribbling in Italian in their expansive diaries. You might have thought that

these "extra" languages would be only for the more academic students but nothing could be further from the truth. Japanese has proven to be particularly accessible to dyslexic students, written as it is in characters. And Sarah Evans stresses that there is no selection in her Italian classes:

"If you want to come along and you're aiming at getting a D or an E that's fine with me, as long as you enjoy it along the way. For me the mark of success is that my students always ask if they can keep coming to the classes after they've done their exams."

With Urdu also on offer and achieving 73% A*-A, the message is clear: if you want your child to have access to the broadest languages offer in Sheffield, KES is the only place to go.



Air Raid Shelter

The school is very excited about the possibility of opening up the air raid shelters at the front of the school. Vinci, the “Building Schools for the Future” contractors, have kindly offered to help finance this but the school also has to do some fund raising. If any parents have any suggestions as to how the school could raise money for this Mrs B Jackson would appreciate hearing from you. Pictured below - one of the staircases exposed for initial surveying.



Photograph by K Ghering

Rising Star



Congratulations to Claire Wilsher (Y10) who was selected in March for the Under 17 England Netball Squad, which is a fantastic achievement for someone who had only just turned 15 at the time. We

wish her lots of luck at the training camps she has to attend and look forward to watching her play in representative matches very soon! Claire also enjoys representing her school and her club, Sheffield Concord. She is a great team member. She has also proven herself to be a good role model and enjoys coaching and umpiring younger, aspiring netballers (as pictured at The Arches Partnership Games in May).

Congratulations Ewan Davies- ex student of KES!!

Jesus College Cambridge awards exhibitions and scholarships to students. In the first year to get a scholarship requires particular genius (top 5%), getting an exhibition is easier. In later years one can only get a scholarship, there are no exhibitions, but the requirements are not as strict as in first year.

In his first year (2010) Ewan was top of the college in Part IA Mathematics (that's another name for the first year maths course). He was awarded an exhibition and the Bronowski Prize. The exhibition meant he got his name in a big special book, a cheque and a meal and finally a photo with all the other scholars and exhibitioners. The prize was left by Jacob Bronowski, the presenter of the Ascent of Man BBC series. He attended Jesus College. It is awarded to the highest performing student in Part IA Mathematics.

In the second Year he was again top and was awarded a Foundation Scholarship and the Ware Prize. The prize is awarded to the highest performing student in Part IB Mathematics.

Congratulations, Ewan!

Latest News: Professor Fitzmaurice Judges KES 6th Formers as Top Class

A number of Y13 English Language students recently attended workshops about child language acquisition at Sheffield University. As part of this, students had to work in groups giving a presentation in front of an audience about a research topic within the field. In competition with sixth formers from other schools and colleges, our students were judged winners by Professor Susan Fitzmaurice, Head of the Linguistics Department at Sheffield University. How about that for a successful sixth form!

TOP CAT 6TH FORMERS!

KES English Language students awarded prize by Sheffield University Professor!

As part of a new venture in links between Post16 A level teaching and universities, Sheffield University Department of English Language and Linguistics organised two day workshops for 6th formers entitled 'Language Acquisition Detectives'. This involved students working with university student mentors in researching a field of child language acquisition using the university library and online resources. Students were then asked to make a presentation to the assembled audience of lecturers, university students, professors and other competing A level students from colleges and 6th forms in the region on a field of acquisition they had researched.

Professor Susan Fitzmaurice judged a presentation about methodologies and ethical issues surrounding research into child language acquisition by students from KES as the prize winning presentation. Gary Wood, lecturer at the University who organised the workshops, had this to say: "We were particularly impressed by the fact that your students looked beyond the obvious methods for research and considered some broader issues and implications, including ethics." The students handled the questions very effectively, and were not fazed by questions relating to their own work (such as ethics in their coursework).

Congratulations to the students involved: Audrey Jonga, Alex Clarke, Isla Tyrell, Ella Twyman, Corinne Dignan, Holly Bowman and Rosa Stoppard. This says a lot about the quality of our students and the quality of the teaching they get at KES. Opportunities like this to work in university environments, sought out by teachers at KES, promote the success of students and gives them an insight into life at university.

Did you know that in the world of Science:

Ludwig Glauert (1879-1963) Paleontologist

Hermann Glauert (1892-1934) Aero dynamist, who developed the Prandtl-Glauert transformation

Frank Ellis (1905-2006) Radiation oncologist

Edward Hubert Linfoot (1905-82) Astronomer. Assistant Director of the Observatory, University of Cambridge

Sir Harold Warris Thompson CBE (1908-1983) English physical chemist; Chairman of the Football Association

Peter J. Landin (1930-2009) Computer Scientist and academic at Queen Mary College, London

Prof Ian Fells CBE (1932) Professor of Energy Conversion, President of the Institute of Energy and broadcaster

Alan Wood (1947) CEO of Siemens PLC

Simon Wessley (1956) professor of epidemiological and liaison psychiatry, Kings College London

All attended King Edward VII !



King Edward VII School: Where (all) Languages Count !

King Edward VII School is one of the most culturally and linguistically diverse schools in the city. 23% of our students in Key Stages 3 and 4 are bilingual, i.e. speak at least a second language. This is not counting the 6 languages we currently teach at the school (Spanish, French, German, Japanese, Italian, Urdu) but those that the students speak at home with their families. Currently there are 44 different languages recorded as the home languages of students. We see this linguistic diversity as a major strength of the school, something to be valued and celebrated.

Celebrating Linguistic Diversity

Our annual celebration event "Teach a Friend a Language" (TaFaL) which took place to mark the European Day of Languages on 26th September was again a huge success. Nearly 200 students took part, both as "teacher" and learners. Our bilingual students greatly enjoyed sharing their home languages with their monoglot friends, who in turn got an insight into the cultures and languages that make up King Edward VII School.

Accrediting Home Languages

We really want to make languages count, not just by celebrating and valuing them, but putting real value on them. We have for many years supported our bilingual students in gaining accreditation for their home languages and every year many of them take GCSEs in several different languages at the school, ranging from Arabic, Bengali, Chinese and Dutch to Persian, Portuguese and Urdu. This very valuable language GCSE adds to our students' examination performance and gives them an extra advantage in their overall portfolio of skills and qualifications.

Supporting Sheffield's Language Communities

The excellent results our students achieve in their home languages are often due to the teaching they have received in one of the many complementary schools which Sheffield's language communities themselves have set up to ensure that their mother tongues continue to thrive. King Edward VII School itself is host to 5 different community languages schools: the Sheffield Greek School, the Sudanese School (Arabic), the Sheffield and District Chinese School, the Korean School the Portuguese Community School and the Russian School. Over the years we have seen the development of a vibrant learning community on our premises, with over 100 children attending community schools every week, developing skills in their mother tongues, mixing with other communities and experiencing the wealth of languages found within the city.

HoLA: Bringing Mainstream and Community Schools together

Having worked with many of Sheffield's language communities for a long time, we are very aware of the benefits to both mainstream schools and complementary schools, when there are good relationships and regular communication. With this in mind we have been leading the development of a city-wide project which will bring mainstream schools and community schools together for the benefit of both, but most of all the children whose teaching we share.

We have been successful in gaining funding from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation for a new and innovative Project: HoLA, Home Language Accreditation. The Project will support linguistic diversity and community cohesion in Sheffield. The aim is to raise the educational attainment of bilingual pupils by enabling mainstream and supplementary schools to develop effective partnerships. The Project is managed by King Edward VII School and also involves several partners: the Sheffield Children's University and Languages Sheffield, a voluntary organisation which supports the city's complementary schools.

CoLA: GCSE Equivalent in a Week !

It became apparent during the October half-term holidays how much students and their families value formal accreditation in their home languages. 40 children from all over the city came together at King Edward VII School to prepare for the Asset Languages Intermediate examination, which carries the same value as a Higher Level GCSE. Teachers from King Edward VII School, Silverdale School and Birley School had developed an innovative course (CoLA: Community Languages Accreditation) which covers all students need to know about the exam in a week. The course was delivered in Arabic, Bengali and Somali and the participating children greatly enjoyed the experience. Thanks to external funding we were able to offer free transport and food – all of which went down very well with the youngsters. At the end of the course students were quite articulate about their learning:

"I learnt how to write without anyone's help"

"I learnt about tenses, new words, the way to set your answers in the exam"

"I learnt connectives in Arabic, new classic words"

"The teacher was supportive, it was a good learning experience"



PSHE

The PSHE department prides itself on finding a wide range of visitors to support the curriculum it delivers, so it was a privilege to welcome Dr Sheila Abdullah (a KES parent) into the classroom. She left Syria in 2005 and has given talks to Amnesty International.



The unrest in Syria has reportedly killed at least 3,000 people, mostly unarmed protesters, since demonstrations broke out against the government.

Dr Abdullah showed a PowerPoint followed by a question and answer session.

Reading the students' comments reveals just what an impact the lesson had.

"It was really moving and sad and although hard, it was good to talk about it" (Millie)

"People our age don't always think about other people's lives, in other countries and it's a shock to see what happens in other countries and imagine if it could happen to us" (Alana)

"We found out things we wouldn't usually hear about" (Ben)

"We hear things on the news and don't always take it in. It's very different when it's someone's real life story" (Mo)

Molly was impressed; Dr Abdullah "tried to get involved and help as much as possible... that she felt touched by the events even

though she was not in Syria"

Year 8s were given the opportunity to explore a broad range of issues including the Human Rights Act, state and individual responsibility, the importance of democracy and valuing the right to vote, the power of ordinary people in making decisions and the role of Amnesty International.

If any other parents/guardians feel they can offer something to enrich the PSHE curriculum please email Kim Wilson (PSHE Curriculum Leader)

kwilson@kes.sheffield.sch.uk

Geography WorldWide Quiz

Three Y9 students participated in the Sheffield round of the Geographical Association's World Wise Quiz at King Egbert School.

This is an annual event with regional rounds, national rounds and an international round. In a previous year a team from KES has been to the international round in Mexico.

Our team this year consisted of Joe Crossley, Ben Hudson and Tom Cudmore. They were chosen as they won the KES round of the quiz, gaining 20 out of 26 (quiz attached if you want to see the standard or have a go yourself!) Joe, Ben and Tom were absolute stars and a credit to the school.

The quiz was very hard and they were the youngest team there. They came in 3rd place. They won a book token for taking part and could still be entered for the national round of the competition in the Lake District in the Spring.



Geology

Geology? Earth Science? The study of the planet we live on- what it is made of, what goes on underneath the crust, what has happened in the past. It is a lot more than just 'boring old rocks'. For many that follow one of its sub disciplines it becomes their career. Careers that can take them all over the world.



Many who choose to study Geology initially have had their curiosity and interest raised perhaps by the fossils they have found when younger. That was certainly the case for Peter York, Geology teacher at KES. In his case initially it was the fossils of tree plants his father used to bring home from the coal mine where he worked. At secondary school when other examination subjects didn't appeal it was more by accident than choice he chose to study Geology. After all it fitted well with Geography and the other Science subjects he had opted to do and he had that spark of interest for the subject. He quickly realised that there was a lot more to the subject than

just fossils and became enthused by topics such as volcanoes, earthquakes and geological mapwork. The theory of drifting continents was pretty new and created a lot of interest. Such theories are now well accepted. The various fieldtrips organised by the school were particularly motivating.

The academic background of Geology students at King Edwards is diverse. Certainly one of the three major sciences is a benefit. Many are also studying Geography, but there have also been students from English, Art and Music for example. Cue the comment- 'so you want to be a rock musician'.

Many of them often appear to 'fall into it' when other options appear less inviting. Of course there are students with the long time interest who declare in the early lessons their ambition to be a volcanologist (someone who studies volcanoes) or a palaeontologist (someone who studies fossils). It is always interesting how, over the two year course that their interest in the subject doesn't change but career aspirations often do as they discover other parts to the subject.

For many, having successfully taken their AS and A2 exams it becomes a gateway to going on to study Geology at University. After completing their degrees they go onto take up associated jobs in the oil industry, mining

companies, land reclamation, waste disposal or research. Their jobs have taken them to places such as Australia, Africa, Sweden, USA. Many former students report that they have no problems finding an employer.

Today's students at King Edwards have opportunities to go on a number of fieldtrips. Apart from bringing the geology studied in the classroom to 'life' they are also important for the collection of data that has to be processed and analysed as part of their assessed coursework.

In the classroom in addition to the theoretical work, there are numerous demonstrations and practical activities. Yet again part of the A2 examination consists of planning and carrying out laboratory work. Students also take a variety of written and practical exams in order to complete the AS and A2 course.

Below a colony of corals found by students in the Lake District



Film Summer School 2011

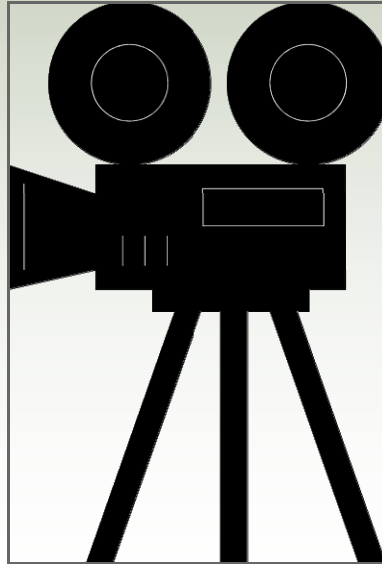
Hushed tones as the lights are dimmed in the auditorium. We are in the lecture theatre for the official première of the five short films shot during this year's film summer school project. Outside, professional photographs of the project flash up on the glass walls of the Sheffield Hallam Furnival Building. Inside, each film, two minutes in length, tackles an issue around attitudes to language learning in the UK, challenges stereotypes or simply reflects how relevant it is to be able to speak a foreign language.

The quality of the films demonstrate how hard the twenty students involved in the project worked over the three day summer school held in July. Coming from eight different schools the then Y11 students took part in a series of activities which encouraged them to use their language skills in a creative and fun way and challenged them to pick up (at speed) key film making tips. The project also aimed to bridge the gap between language skills required at GCSE and those needed at Post 16. Elaine Pawling, Head of KS5 languages explains: "Film is an important link and an ideal tool to help with the transition from KS4 to KS5 language learning. Studying film not only allows students to become aware of the local cultural identity of a country, but also more aware as global citizens. Making a film in a second language is a creative and fun activity which serves the students well for the coming two years of A Level language study, where the ability to manipulate language and discuss more intellectual ideas is paramount."

The Film Summer School is now in its third year and is jointly organised by King Edward VII School, Brinsworth Comprehensive School in Rotherham and Sheffield Hallam University. Sessions with a language focus are delivered alongside practical sessions covering film making and editing. Up and coming short film maker Nick Shaw, for the second year running, provided practical advice and support to the students which proved invaluable. Hallam University also

gave us access to the use of their buildings and professional editing suite.

At the celebration event each group presented their film to their families and teachers and staff from the project, before the screening, explaining the concept for their film. The Jury then retired to discuss the films and decide on the winners.



The overall prize winners this year were:

Best Film

Juan Moment Please

By

Gethin Davies – King Edward VII School

Emilie Fitzpatrick – King Edward VII School

Rowan Hadfield – King Edward VII School

Ryan Mullins – Brinsworth Comprehensive

Each student received Cineworld vouchers and a trophy

Outstanding contribution to the project

Ryan Mullins – Brinsworth Comprehensive

Georgia Platt – King Edward VII School

Each student received a HD Flip Video Camera

Many thanks to Sheffield Hallam University who funded this project.



Congratulations to KES students and staff

£1300 raised for Children in Need

They did this by taking part in a form group spare change challenge, paying 50p to wear spots on Children in Need day, buying Pudsey badges, holding cake sales and sponsored silences.



Year Nine student Ayesha Khan has been playing football since the age of five and now plays Left Wing for Sheffield Football Club. She is pictured with some of the many trophies she has won in recent years. Last week she was Player of the Match.

PARTNERSHIP WORK

Close partnership work between KES and South Yorkshire Police has been instrumental in helping build positive relationships between young people and the Police thanks to the involvement of PC Joy Price (Children and Young Person's Officer) in PSHE lessons.



This year's anti-bullying theme was 'Words Can Hurt' and Joy came in to support prior teaching on bullying by focusing on cyber-bullying in Year 7 lessons.



She was able to explain legal consequences of inappropriate use of and stress the importance of responsible use of mobile phones and the Internet (including Facebook etc).

Information sharing regarding local policing issues was useful in helping identify key issues to raise awareness of, so that students can stay safe and know how to be responsible citizens. Topics such as joint enterprise, keeping safe with mobile phones, offensive weapons and the impact of anti-social behaviour have been explored.

In Year 11 Joy (pictured on this page with Scott and Nomsa , who volunteered for a 'stop and search' demonstration) addressed a wide range of issues relating to personal responsibility. Students learned why people are stopped and searched, the importance of not using fake IDs, that cannabis is still illegal and about the importance of making responsible choices.

Many of the students welcomed the opportunity to have question and answer sessions and such positive engagement with young people is to be encouraged.

LOWER SCHOOL LIBRARY NEWS

It has been a busy term! I, Mrs Asquith, am currently covering the maternity leave of our regular librarian who is relaxing at home with her new baby son.

We are pleased to announce we also have our own new arrival in the form of a new library management system called Eclipse which gives students and staff more control over looking for resources in the library and also web based resources which are approved by the Yorkshire and Humber Grid for Learning to include in our catalogue.

Since September I have developed a quick guide to the library to help students and staff find resources in the library and tell them what we have on offer. All the Y7s have received a library induction session this year and I'd like to thank the English department for helping organise the timetabling of this. The Y8s will be doing some information skills sessions in the future.

On September 29th we had the privilege of welcoming not one but two authors into our school; one from Canada and one from America, to promote their new books. Many Y8s got to meet Jana Oliver and Jeyn Roberts and were able to buy signed copies of their books. They each offered the students a workshop about how they got into writing books and provided an insight as to the process of getting work published. The Y8s thoroughly enjoyed working with the authors.

As well as the "recommended reads" we have now introduced "author of the month". In September we had Jacqueline Wilson, October Michael Morpurgo, November Philip Pullman and December's author is Sophie McKenzie.

A Reading Group for the more motivated readers has begun in lower school library and currently we are discussing mystery books in co-operation with Ms Angland. We are looking at the Carnegie Book Awards and planning some shadowing events and watch out for World Book

Night in March!

We are currently piloting a "Reading Counts" scheme for Y7, Y8, and Y9 to encourage reluctant readers to read more frequently. A huge thank you goes to our Post 16 student volunteers who are helping these younger pupils get more practice with their reading each week.

Chess club has re-started in lower school library on Friday lunchtimes and we have a thriving membership of about 18. We are hoping to arrange a tournament just after Christmas.



Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal.



Thank you to all staff and students who donated small gifts and toys for our annual Shoebox appeal this year. Staff and students collected, decorated and filled 36 boxes which have been sent off to children and young people around the world, who would not otherwise be getting any gifts this Christmas. This is in keeping with KES commitment to supporting charities and initiatives to help young people and organisations locally, nationally and internationally.

Sarah Asquith



Safe@Last is a local charity which works with young people who run away from home and provides a helpline to support young people. Laura Jeffery, Runaways Education Officer, recently came into year 8 PSHE lessons to raise awareness of the issues of going missing, running away from home and homelessness.

It was also an opportunity to signpost the services of Safe@Last and how they can help young people to keep safe. The students enjoyed the workshop which used an interactive quiz to explore the risks and dangers of running away. The local picture in South Yorkshire was discussed and students were helped to develop an awareness of safe solutions (including how to use the services of Safe@Last).



Students reflected:

“Using the handheld devices was fun and more interactive than just being told about it” (Joe)
“I found it really useful and it felt helpful to know someone’s always there for you in hard situations. A GREAT lesson!” (Ruby)

I thought it was an important lesson and was useful; I now know the dangers of running away.” (Arianne)

“I enjoyed learning about how I can help my friends if that ever happens and I liked using the Quizdom devices. It was very useful.” (Dardan)

Laura was full of praise for the students saying, “The interest and enthusiasm they showed was nice to see and they had some really great ideas as to why young people run away and the risks associated with running away. The behaviour of the students was outstanding and it was a real pleasure to visit King Edwards and work with these students”.



Under 16 National Schools Netball Tournament

The Under 16 squad travelled to Wickersley Sports College on the 19th November to take part in the County Round of National Schools. The girls have been attending early morning sessions at upper school and occasional ones at lower school time permitting, but lack of practice on a full size court was a concern as the day approached. We won our first game comfortably, but the next match was against Sheffield Girls High (always a close game) and we unfortunately lost. The team did not lose any more games during the Round Robin Event, but did draw against Wales Comprehensive in a game which King Edwards dominated but just couldn't put the goals away. At the end of the tournament, having played 6 games, King Edwards had won 4, lost one and drawn one, but came 3rd on points, narrowly missing out on a place in the next round.

Well done to all girls who took part on the day, Cara Bradshaw King (Captain), Claire Wilsher, Adday Heller, Toni Dore, Meg Plowright, Susi Williams, Heli Kinch, Dora Sherbourne and Natasha Wroe.

Year 3 and 4 Sports Hall Athletics

Our feeder primary schools were invited to bring their year 3 and 4 pupils to a Mini Olympics Athletics competition at KES on the 24th November. The event was ably led by pupils from King Edwards who instructed the youngsters in throwing, jumping and running events and measured and timed their attempts. The pupils from the Primary Schools were put into groups to represent some of the countries who have hosted the Olympic Games over the past years. The Bronze Medal at our Mini Olympics this year went to Australia, the Silver Medal to Sweden and the Gold medal winners were Brazil.

Well done to all pupils who took part, but a special thank you must go to the pupils from KES who ran the event so competently; Natalie Bagnall, Laura Booth, Meg Rooper, Natasha Wroe, Caitlin Davies, Georgina Panasuk, Sam Atkin, Millie Johnson, Molly Newman, Emily Newman and Eleanor Neath.

Aliens, bombs and code-cracking” – the Y8 Opening Minds Challenge Sessions

As part of the school's Opening Minds programme all Y8 students have this term taken part in a team-building challenge session. Over two hours students have worked in teams to successfully complete a series of tricky tasks.

On the top field they needed to get from one side of the football pitch to the other without touching the ground using only some bits of wood, some rope and a few quadrats; in the Hall they needed to get a 'bomb' out of a 'minefield' without entering the minefield or touching the bomb and in the library they needed to crack some cryptic cyphers (codes). On top of all of that they needed to use all their cunning to collect answers to clues from around the school grounds.

The sessions were a lot of fun and really seemed to develop students' interpersonal skills. In particular it was great seeing some (unexpected) students stepping up to the role of team leader.

The Opening Minds project continues as students are taught about "aliens and space" in their Science, Mathematics and ICT lessons for the following four weeks.

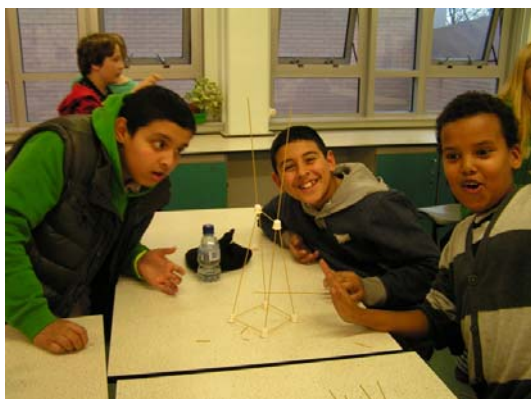
Well done to all of the Y8s for taking part!



Blood, pasta and electromagnets - Y7 & 8 STEM Club



The KES STEM Club (STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) has this year returned with a vengeance! We have about twenty Y7 and Y8 students coming week by week to complete challenges, carry out investigations and build things.



So far we have built and tested paper aeroplanes and pasta towers, identified the blood group of some blood from a crime scene to narrow down the list of suspects and made the strongest magnet we could (it was an electromagnet that picked up about 20 paperclips!). I am delighted that this year as well as Mr. Ward and Mrs. Goff helping out we are being ably assisted by three Y9 students who help run the group as the "service" part of their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award.



The plans for the next term are adventurous – really

only limited by the staff and students' imagination, oh and some pesky health & safety regulations...

We still have a little bit of space for more students, so if you are an interested Y7 or Y8 student come along to Lab 2 after school on Wednesdays.

7 more reasons why Languages Count!

Languages are a social skill

If you enjoy socialising, you will enjoy being able to communicate with more people!

Languages are a life skill

Knowledge of a foreign language is a concrete and demonstrable life skill, like being able to drive a car and it is a skill highly valued by employers.

Languages teach you communication skills and adaptability

Learning how to interact with speakers of other languages, it can help you see things from a range of perspectives.

Languages teach you cultural awareness

The ability to operate cross-culturally is becoming just as valued by employers as language skills.

Languages give you a sense of achievement

Learning a language combines the intellectual with the practical as no other subject does.

Learning languages gives you greater opportunities to travel and work abroad

If you work with organisations abroad, knowledge of a foreign language is a clear advantage.

Languages combine well with virtually any subject for further study

The range of combined degrees and further education courses involving a language is limitless.



MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS

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