

SEPTEMBER 2023 - ISSUE 3

inside



KATHERINE WARRINGTON SCHOOL



READY • RESPECTFUL • RESPONSIBLE



Editor's Note

Welcome to the third Edition of Inside KWS.

What a thrilling year it has been at KWS! It has been filled with sporting, cultural, and extracurricular events that the students have not only partaken in, but cherished. This year has brought so much success to Katherine Warrington School, from Youth Speaks to Trampolining, to Mock Examinations and Gymnastics and our students have grown and matured under the pressure. They have welcomed new challenges when others would shy away, thus deeming this academic year, 2022/23: The Year of Opportunities.

This edition of Inside KWS aims to highlight the numerous opportunities that have been on offer for KWS students this year and their continued success along the way. I hope you will agree that this edition has successfully accomplished its objective. This magazine has always, and will continue to be, a reflection and the epitome of students' creativity and accomplishments. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the role of my team, Miss McCormick and Mrs Ferris, who continue to work tirelessly to make these editions happen. In addition, I would like to thank Mrs Hassan, the former editor of Inside KWS, for providing me with the tools to make this edition succeed. I would not have been able to make this happen without your support. Finally, I would like to thank all those who have contributed to the edition for this year, including: staff and students.

We hope you enjoy the 3rd edition of Inside KWS. We look forward to welcoming our new cohort of students in September 2023 and can not wait to see what new opportunities await our students in the 2023/24 academic year.

**Mrs Ryman,
English Teacher**

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Welcome to KWS



KWS has completed its fourth year and it is fair to say the school is flourishing. This academic year we add another Year 7 cohort, completing the first stage of our journey. In September 2024, we open our sixth form and we have worked hard to reconfigure the

main building to suit independent, mature, academic students who wish to remain here or join us for A levels and BTecs. That is in the near future but this magazine celebrates all that is KWS over the past year and there is so much to squeeze in, it needs a strong editorial hand (thank you Mrs Ryman). Let us start with a look at what we encourage our students to experience beyond the classroom; there are clubs galore. The good thing about all our clubs is that you can join at any point in the year. Clubs range from art leaders to advanced maths, from volleyball to yoga. Jump in and make new friends.

Then we present PERIOD 7. Most schools have a decent array of extracurricular offerings. However, they do not have them as part of a standard timetable so those who can, join in but the remaining 50 per cent of the students miss out due to transport issues or timings. Here at KWS, Monday to Wednesday, students pick an option from each of the categories of Mind, Body and Soul. It's unique to KWS, unique to Harpenden and free to all students and parents. The range on offer is just mind blowing.

We can't introduce you to KWS without mentioning our commitment to students being ready to take on challenges in later life from around the globe. Being able to speak, understand and appreciate different languages is key to our students making a difference to tomorrow's society. We offer Spanish and Mandarin as modern foreign languages and, with English, that covers the main languages spoken throughout the world. What's more is we offer trips to our GCSE students to Spain and this year to China to practice the language first hand. In addition, let's not forget that we offer several additional languages in Period 7. Sounds a decent proposition on paper, but how does it stack up in reality?

Well, not only are we giving a great platform for students to excel academically, we are also broadening their horizons in the fields of sport, the Arts and character development.

We have achieved so much as a developing school and one of the challenges has been to support the Performing Arts, when we don't have older students who routinely make up the bulk of any school orchestra or drama production. If you have had the pleasure of seeing any of our productions, we are certain you will agree that we have valiantly met and overcome that challenge. Our productions are a delight and are exceptional, not only for the quality of the performances, but for their inclusivity and level of participation (over 125 students were involved in our production of Shrek this year).

Through the rest of this magazine you will be able to spot the joy, the kindness, the support and the togetherness of the KWS community. It all starts with a welcoming warm smile as you open the following pages to take a look inside Katherine Warrington School. At KWS smiles mean a lot and we strive to go that extra step to support, inspire and stretch students. Add the smiles of staff and you've found a great place to learn and to work

TONY SMITH, HEADTEACHER (2019 TO 2023)
DAVID MARTIN, ACTING HEADTEACHER



A YEAR IN REVIEW



▲*“Year 7 residential trip to Manor Adventure for a few days to experience high ropes, stand-up paddle boarding, and orienteering”*



CHRISTMAS LUNCH

It was a wonderful way to end the first term of the academic year! Students were able to make friends across the year groups with many of the older students making sure that the smaller year 7's felt included. Surrounded by the school Christmas trees and the wonderful hanging lights, it was a wonderful sight to behold and reminded the students the importance of belonging and togetherness. A massive thank you to the catering team who did an amazing job! The food was simply marvellous!



DIWALI

Here are just a few of the events that occurred: our wonderful Catering team put on a delicious Diwali inspired menu, students volunteered to lead an assembly to each year group on the history of Diwali, and the talented Miss Robinson (Art) and our Arts Leaders invited KS3 students to create their own Rangoli designs. Our Arts Leaders led bright and wonderful chalk drawings. Finally, led by Miss Hammond (Food tech), our amazing Year 10's rolled their sleeves up and made (from scratch!) their very own samosas!



LIFESKILLS TESCO TRIP

A small group of students were invited on a very informative trip out during this academic year to investigate how a supermarket runs. The trip was organised by the Prince's Trust as part of the Achieve Programme.

Students ventured off to the Tesco Supermarket in Hatfield. Students were able to view the staff room, canteen, warehouse and all of the departments. The students even got to venture inside the giant fridges and freezers which were rather chilly!

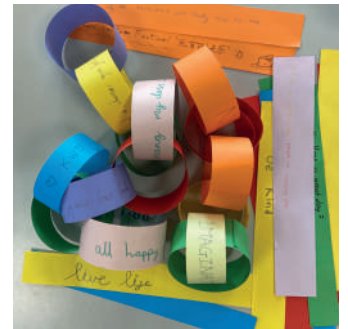
As part of the trip, students were asked to complete a booklet. To help complete the booklet students needed to ask questions at every department. Workers explained their job roles, and what skills were needed.

At the end of the visit the manager did a mock interview with one of the students, Rio. It went really well, and Rio got a prize for volunteering and doing so well. Mrs Gaydon and Miss Francis



SHELTER

Well done to the 60+ students and staff who took part in the Sleepout to raise money for Shelterbox!



MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

During Children's Mental Health Week, we celebrated the theme of "Let's Connect." Throughout the week, we ran various activities designed to encourage our students and staff to talk about mental health.

In science lessons, teachers explained more about the science behind connection. In the library, students contributed to a paper chain of positive connection. Students wrote down positive interactions they had throughout the week to help make our paper chain as long as possible. It is currently displayed in our Library.

Every student was given a Connection Card and was challenged to make as many positive connections as possible. We are proud to say that 171 students entered themselves into our draw.

Nightingale achieved the most house points (100 points) for entering the highest number, Tesla (75 points) and Franklin (50 points). Finally, congratulations to Rebecca R in Year 8 for winning the draw.

Thank you to all involved!



HERTS VOICES

Tim Armoo talked as part of the Herts Voices launch, about how he launched his successful business despite growing up with disadvantages. It all started with one tip, "Work with what you know".



YEAR 10 COMPUTING TRIP

On Wednesday 10th May, Year 10 computing students had the opportunity to visit The National Museum Of Computing located in Bletchley park.

The day was full of hands-on activities and experiences for the students to learn about applying their knowledge. Students looked at the first computers built and how they assisted in winning the war. They investigated robots and Artificial Intelligence and the ethical issues surrounding AI. The students also got to discuss the limitations of AI before going on a chatbot and trying to guess if they were speaking to a computer or human.

Students coded their own SNAKE game using an old BBC computer. The day included a tour of the museum and a chance to see the different inventions and technological advancements over the years.

Thank you to all the students who got involved in the trip and the staff who assisted.



THE FIRST KWS/KWAF FIREWORK DISPLAY

A whopping audience of over 1,500 people came to watch our first firework display!



RAMADAN IN THE LIBRARY

Many students contributed to the Ramadan display board by creating their own lantern designs by researching, drawing and colouring. Information about Ramadan, faith, muslim writers and famous people was tucked inside for students to open and learn about each day of the month.



YEAR 7 SCHOOL DISCO

The Year 7 Disco was run by KWAF and all Year 7's were eager to attend. Not only was the disco a wonderful excuse to spend the night dancing with your friends, but it was also an opportunity to give back to the community. The money raised will be used to improve school facilities and beautify the school. Thank you to the two DJs for the night: Mr Cain and Mr Inns who did an amazing job.

THE UMBRELLA PROJECT

We celebrated neurodiversity month with a series of whole year group assemblies talking about neurodiversity. These assemblies focused on the importance of how neurodiversity is an incredibly important and a part of many individual's lives, both inside and outside our community. Within the assemblies, we looked at some individual's achievements, including an artist who was able to draw the Manhattan skyline using only his memory as a reference. An incredible feat! You may have also seen our Umbrella Project display (before it was battered by the wind!). This is part of the ADHD Foundation's countrywide initiative to raise awareness of neurodiversity through a series of installations. The founding members of the KWS Umbrella Project decorated some of the umbrellas with words representing the positive traits their neuro-diversities bring them, alongside their interests and hobbies. This tradition will continue each year. Thank you to KWAF for generously funding our involvement with the project.



◀ ***“Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Expedition: Once we officially made it to camp, we had a special delivery of ice lollies due to the hot weather!”***



SPANISH TRIP

Year 10 Spanish students went on a trip to Girona in Spain. They enjoyed many activities including: high ropes and zip wires in the forest, fun Spanish games and lessons, playing football and basketball, a tour of Camp Nou (Barcelona football stadium) and visiting La Sagrada Familia, the famous cathedral in Barcelona.

Meet our Head Students



BECKY D

As the end of the school year is approaching (much faster than I expected!), I'd like to pass on some things I've learnt over the past year.

Something I have learnt is that you should

take advantage of the opportunities that come your way -- you never know where they may lead you. Just last year I decided to apply for the position of head student, and I couldn't be happier that I took the opportunity to do so. It led me to meet some great people that I hadn't spoken to before and really helped me grow in confidence. So, please, don't be afraid to take opportunities -- you never know, they may really benefit you!

Another thing I've come to appreciate after completing our Year 10 mocks; the importance of planning ahead and time keeping. The sooner you start, the better. Whether that be reading ahead on a subject's specification (which can be accessed on the exam board's website) or just making a few flashcards, all of these little things add up and are extremely important. It will prevent those late-night revision sessions and save you from falling asleep in exams!

Finally, I'd say just try to enjoy yourself whenever you can. Time flies by so quickly, so just be kind to yourself, have fun with your friends and try your best -- that's all anyone could ever ask.



HARRY H

It's been an extremely busy year. In terms of school events, there's been a lot of trips - for example, I went to Spain in October with my Spanish class and we had a great time, which was a pretty memorable experience. My year group also had their

first set of mock GCSE exams, which were quite stressful, but were a huge part of my year so far. However, a really important thing for me this year has been the friends that I've made and the fact that throughout all of these experiences, and the difficulties that have been faced, I've had my friends and my classmates for support. I feel that throughout this year, I've become more focused and far more prepared for Year 11!

One of the most important pieces of advice I'd like to pass on to students in their lower years at KWS is to make sure that if you ever have a question or idea, then you should always make sure that your voice is heard. This is so important, because the only way to improve and to make our school the best place possible is to share your own ideas and perspectives, as well as listening to what others think.

If you're unhappy or struggling with anything, then speak up about it so you can get help to make sure that you have the best possible time at secondary school. I'd also advise people to take care of themselves and prioritise their wellbeing - School can be really stressful, and it's important to eat enough, get a good amount of

sleep and stay healthy. A great way to do this - and another piece of advice - is to join a club or extracurricular activity. It's a great way to make friends and to get better at a hobby! However I believe that the most important thing is to have fun and make sure that you work hard, but also take breaks when you need them. Good luck and enjoy the rest of the year!

◀ Our student leadership team



Head of House messages

ALI

MISS ANDERSON, HEAD OF ALI

Ali has had a great year this year with successes in house competitions, academic competitions and being excellent role models around the school. We have had students compete for KWS in sports fixtures all year with some notable achievements in trampolining (Ollie T, Y9), Football (Isobel J, Y9), Athletics (Josh T, Y10) and Netball (Eva-Rose M & Evie H, Y10). These students have had wonderfully successful seasons, with some of them making it to the county level.

We ran our "beat the goalie" charity competition earlier on in the half term - thank you to all of those who took some shots and to our house captains Martha, Tom and Jack for stepping up and going in goal.

ARMSTRONG

MR HOUGHTON, HEAD OF ARMSTRONG

This half-term Armstrong have managed to retain the most house points in the school (with just over 31,000), following great success in the form assemblies - where each form were tasked with creating and delivering their own morning assemblies, on a variety of topics. We also participated in chess competitions, charity fundraising and the Keller house treasure hunt, contributing to the impressive first position overall. Just before the Easter holiday, we hosted a competition inviting students to guess the number of mini-eggs within a jar and, later we hosted the 'Armstrong Super-quiz' which was open to all year groups.

FRANKLIN

MR HISCOCK & MS HASSAN, JOINT HEADS OF FRANKLIN

Franklin has continued to emulate Luton Town's rise in the table across the season.

7 Franklin led the way within Franklin for house points in recognitions, with almost 1800 points across the Form. 10 Franklin have contributed to the House points total with a really strong Form Assembly earlier in the year - the high standard of which eclipsed the other Year 10 Forms.

There was also further gains within the KWS Fantasy Premier League competition.

Finally, the Performing Arts team delivered a fantastic Shrek production with our lead actress from Franklin as Fiona! Excellent performance. Well done to all the Franklin members who participated.

HOUSE CUP WINNERS 22/23!

KELLER

MRS WALL, HEAD OF KELLER

Students in Keller had great fun taking part in house activities and competitions this year. Amongst these was the riddle treasure hunt organised by our very own house leaders. Students were tasked with locating and solving riddles across the school and received house points for their effort. We also celebrated some successes in the recent inter-house sports competition, including a first place win for the 9 Keller netball team.

Aside from the house competitions and activities, there has been huge participation by Keller students in the other school events including: the Interact sleepout, the recent production of Shrek and various sporting fixtures.

NIGHTINGALE

MR LAWRENCE, HEAD OF NIGHTINGALE

Nightingale were delighted to achieve the highest number of donations to the KWS food bank appeal last winter, another huge thank you for all the support received from parents and guardians with this appeal.

Each of our forms also donated a rotary shoebox scheme last November to provide toys, toiletries and stationery to communities in eastern Europe; some forms sent multiple boxes so a big well done to them.

Finally, as a house we also ran a successful movie showing one lunchtime where attendees watched a Toy Story short film whilst enjoying popcorn and pick 'n' mix and all the proceeds went to our two school charities - The Ollie Foundation and Cancer Research UK. Well done to our House Captains Jahleel Mi, Mabel K and Freddie C for putting on such a good event.

TESLA

MRS GAYDON, HEAD OF TESLA

This term saw Tesla host the first "Great KWS Bake-off" event. Tesla had the most entries and narrowly missed out to the winning house - Armstrong! It was an amazing chocolate orange cake.

As a house we started out on top this term, and with only a few points between the top three houses, it should be an exciting end to the term.

Our last event was our Illustrated Recipe KWS Cookbook. Students chose their favourite recipes and illustrated them. We hope to make these into a KWS cookbook, which can be sold! - Just in time for Christmas.

SPORTS DAY WINNERS 22/23!



PERFORMING ARTS



Concert performance
of *Guys and Dolls* in
December

The 2022-23 academic year has been an extraordinarily busy one for Performing Arts. The year started off with the introduction of our new Performing Arts course in year 9 where students were exposed to a range of styles and techniques across the disciplines of Acting, Dance and Musical Theatre.

Then, in November we ran our cultural day for the students where we took 180 students to London for a workshop at Pineapple studios with a team from Disney, before going to see "Frozen" at London's Theatre Royal Drury Lane.

December saw our Concert Performance of "Guys and Dolls" to a sell out audience for two nights, featuring over 150 students in the cast and orchestra. On what is set to be a regular occurrence, our



“Shrek the musical... went on to be our most celebrated production yet with our array of dancers, actors, singers and especially a live orchestra made up of students and performed for four sold out nights in May 2023”



choir gained plaudits for their performance at the Harpenden Mayor’s Christmas Concert.

After a few weeks rest, January started with the casting of “Shrek” the musical, which went on to be our most celebrated production yet, with our array of dancers, actors, singers and especially a live orchestra made up of students who performed for four sold out nights in May 2023.

June saw activities week and our first ever Performing Arts residential, based at the LSE’s Bankside Hall. Over 70 students took part in a series of workshops and lectures by cast members, a Theatrical agent and the fight director from the Globe Theatre. Students also watched performances of Phantom, Mrs Doubtfire, Lion King and Comedy of Errors at the Globe. ▶



PERFORMING ARTS



We finished off the year with our Arts Week where students took part in our inaugural music, dance and drama festival. Students prepared performances for our two adjudicators, Siobhan Cha Cha (Unicorn Theatre) Vaneeka Dhadria (Cyrano de Bergerac, Broadway).

Finally to bring our year to an end, over 300 parents and students attended our first annual Arts Awards evening. Hosted by Performing Arts and the Art Department, our keynote speaker Adele James (Queen Cleopatra, Netflix) talked about the importance of the arts and aspiration in society and then presented awards to our students.

On reflection, this has been a year filled with opportunity and celebration here at KWS and we look forward to what 2023-24 has to bring!





PE & SPORTS

BY MR ALEXANDER, HEAD OF PE AND YEAR 9

This academic year has seen KWS sport continue to grow and progress and we are definitely making strides in the right direction. Yet again, it has been a great chance to compete against other schools and look to develop plenty of sporting potential. Throughout the year we have had a range of different competitive sports events including: rugby, netball, gymnastics, football, basketball, cricket and athletics.

WELLBEING CENTRE This academic year brought about the opening of our Wellbeing Centre, with massive thanks to Paul Crowson, Academia and the Harpenden Trust for supporting the funding to make this possible, as well as England rugby World Cup winner Joe Worsely coming in to open the facility for us. Students have had the opportunity to use this gym space to support a healthy lifestyle and broaden their understanding of physical fitness during curriculum time, before and after school, as well as a lunchtime club too.

RUGBY is definitely a sport we are looking to develop higher student interest in and grow in terms of engagement and participation. All year groups had a number of fixtures throughout the term; however, some fell victim to adverse weather. Some noticeable highlights of the season include our Year 10s epic battle against Roundwood in the first game of the season and Year 7s being able to fill 2 sides and competing fantastically throughout.

NETBALL This was the first season that the year 7, 8 and 10 netball teams were entered in the district league. All teams remained motivated throughout both in training and in match play. This resulted in all 3 teams winning their league and being promoted to Division 2 for the next academic year.

GIRLS FOOTBALL Both the U13 and U14 girls had great football seasons this year. Engagement was high throughout the whole season with lots of students willing and wanting to play. Sides were captained by Isobel J and Alice T who were motivating, sympathetic and fair in their approach. Both teams showed great resilience and teamwork in every match.

BOYS FOOTBALL has continued to build and progress, with a number of excellent performances throughout the year. Year 7, as a squad, has plenty of potential and a large pool of exciting talent that can only improve as they get older. Year 10 also had a very promising season, winning the large majority of their games and reaching the semi-final of the district cup, before narrowly missing out by a single goal to St Columba's. Special mention to Edward J in Year 7 for the sheer volume of goals he scored throughout the season, Harry S in Year 8 for being a commanding presence in defence. Alex M, Ollie T, Ollie S, Charlie F and Jules W for being a consistent and dependable presence in the Year 9 team even when results did not always go their way and the whole of the Year 10



PE & SPORTS



squad for playing an excellent brand of football and being a pleasure to coach. We also wanted to congratulate both Isobel J in Year 9 and Joe L in Year 10 for representing the Hertfordshire County football teams this year. Well done on a very impressive achievement.

TRAMPOLINING Students have had a very successful first year representing KWS at trampolining and gymnastics. The year started with the District Trampoline and Tumble competition at STAHS and a number of students competed. 4 teams were entered and a number of individuals. This was the first trampoline competition for a number of the gymnasts and students handled their nerves well. The year 7 elite boys team of Matthew P, Joshua P and Riley W were crowned Regional champions and the year 9 novice boys team of Ollie T, Jude D and Will E who placed 3rd therefore both teams qualified themselves for the Zonal round. At Zonal, we continued to have success with the Year 7 team qualifying for the National Finals. All 4 students competed in Northampton in March where Matthew, Josh and Riley performed excellently under pressure and were crowned National Champions! Will placed 12th and should be very proud of his achievement in his first trampoline competition.

BASKETBALL The first KWS basketball season saw exciting match ups in the District competition with players from all year groups and the majority of games decided in the last few seconds of matches. The versatility of our promising players meant even where the opposition had seasoned club players, we were outstanding playing above our year group. Congratulations to all the Year 7s and 8s involved with the team. A further congratulations is deserved to: Josh, Kenrick, Oscar, and Marco from Year 9 for their

consistent improvement and Nathan K, Shakram S, Michael S, and Josh HM for showing amazing leadership in Year 10.

We hope to start our open run Fridays after school next year. Finally good luck to all players attending club trials.

ATHLETICS This year's athletics season marked the first year we have entered the Herts County Athletics League, which has been a fantastic opportunity for students. All students who have participated so far have been an absolute credit to the school - to the point where a member of staff from another school commented on how respectful and polite our students were - as well as being highly competitive.

What's been equally impressive is that a number of our Year 7 and 9 students have been competing a year up, and have coped admirably irrespective of that. Some real standout performances have included Harry S in Year 8 dominating the 300m event, Toby B in Year 10 smashing his PB twice to win two separate discus events, Daniel F in Year 9 showing excellent stamina in the 800m and Darci M in Year 8 making the 200/300m look so effortless. Ollie T also beat his PB by 12cm in the high jump.

We also wanted to acknowledge Erin H, Ollie T and Sophie C, Olivia W, Alex McD and Kevin O who at different times stepped in with very little notice to show fight and determination to compete in events that were highly challenging without a second thought. Well done.

Year on year, we very much hope the sporting potential and love of sport within KWS will continue to grow. A massive well done to everyone who has represented a school sports team this year and shown the best of themselves in terms of commitment, attitude and performance.

SPORTS DAY, JULY 2023





Uzair C, Y8 - Not only came second in a national gymnastics competition, but was also selected for the GB development squad.

Nathan T and Henry H - for representing Hertfordshire at rugby

George P - for achieving national times in swimming



Isobel J, Y9 - for representing Herts Schools Football association in the national final and securing her place in the U16 County side for next season.

SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS

Our students (and staff!) have been successful in the sporting field, in and outside of school



Darci M, Y8 - For coming 6th in the 300m in Herts Schools Athletics County champs a year young in her age group.

Marco R representing Hertfordshire at cricket

Ethan H , Y7 - For coming 4th in the 200m at the Herts Schools Athletics County champs



Olivia W, Y8 - For coming 4th in Javelin in the Herts Schools Athletics County champs a year young in her age group.



Ali C, Y8 - Awarded a place in the U14 Herts Schools Football association for 23/24 season.



The Armstrong staff relay team were victorious on sports day with Franklin following behind.



Ms Carly Humphryes, a Science teacher at KWS completed the IronMay challenge, to raise money for Cancer Research. Amazing!



Frankie M, Y7 - For coming 3rd in the 800m at the Herts Schools Athletics County champs.



Joe L - for representing Hertfordshire county football side for U15 and being a member of the Luton Town FC Development Side.

Ethan M, Y7 - For coming 4th in the 800m at the Herts Schools Athletics County champs

Edward J, Y7 - Ranked 8th in UK for Go Karting, (2022), 7th National Finals out of 3000 people (Whole UK competition)



Thomas C - Charity Wheathampstead Run - Beech Hyde School - 1st Place 2km Race and for being accepted into the MK Don football academy.

Science

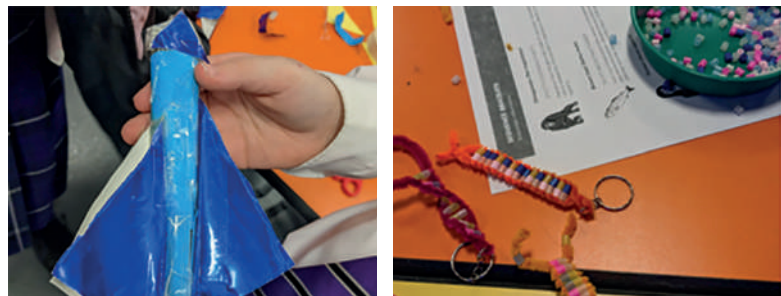
BY THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK 2023 was upon us once again and we geared up to celebrate it at KWS during our KS3 science lessons in the week beginning 20th March. Year 7, 8 and 9 students had a range of tasks during their science lessons – looking at STEM careers, tardigrades, egg parachutes and the Van De Graaff generator to name but a few. There were also a variety of other activities on offer throughout the week including a science joke competition, science scavenger hunt and David Attenborough documentaries lunchtime club.

As part of science week, 195 of our Year 7 students visited the STEM centre in Stevenage to participate in practical sessions. Split across 2 days, the students didn't let the weather deter them and threw themselves into the tasks on offer.

We started off by creating DNA keyrings. The students learnt about the 4 bases that make up DNA and discussed Rosalind Franklin's role in discovering the structure of DNA along with Watson and Crick. Students then selected a DNA code from a species and set about creating a keyring from beads and pipe cleaners.

Next, the students had an opportunity to practise their SCRATCH coding skills by creating a maze game. Each pair chose their character and programmed the maze to correspond keystrokes for movement to be able to walk through walls. The most inventive team chose a car as their character and managed to programme the car to rotate as it changed direction to ensure it was always driving forwards! With their mazes safely navigated, the group were then given the unique opportunity to view the recreated Martian surface and Airbus prototype



Mars rover in action; alongside the scientists who have developed and tested the rover. We discussed the advantage of programming the latest rover, Rosalind, with AI (artificial intelligence) which would enable the rover to more safely navigate the treacherous surface of Mars, without the need for human input. Current rovers can take hours to navigate a few metres, with the time delay of sending instructions to the rover from earth.

The design process and concept of learning from prototypes served our Year 7s well in their final task – designing rockets. Linking in with the work completed on forces this year, within their teams, students created individual prototype rockets before testing them outside; using pressurised air to launch them.

A huge congratulations to all the students that were involved over the 2 days, we hope this has shown you some of the exciting careers that a future in science could lead to.

Mathematics

BY THE MATHS DEPARTMENT

ON THE 'MATHS IN ACTION' TRIP, a group of Year 10 students travelled to London to watch an interactive maths show hosted by Maths in Action. Speakers with backgrounds ranging from academia and quantitative trading to engineering and space science gave a series of fascinating talks designed to enhance mathematical understanding, improve problem solving skills and, above all, to raise awareness of the maths that is all around us. There was also an Exam Masterclass and even some mathematical poetry.

Questions discussed during the day included: "Are you more likely to be struck by lightning or win the lottery?", "How are messages encrypted?" and "How many intelligent alien life forms are searching for us right now?". (The answer to that last question is 7 by the way, but there were a few caveats!)

Students conducted themselves extremely well throughout the day and were engaged and courteous. We hope the trip has inspired them to continue their study of maths to A Level and beyond!



HFL MATHS CHALLENGE

Several Year 7's dominated the HFL Maths Challenge this year in Maths. Congratulations to Thomas C, Joie F, Kenny H, Tapiwa M, Ella P, Willow P, Finlay R and Isla W. In the second round of the challenge, Year 8s were invited to show their maths knowledge.

This maths challenge is a team event where students compete virtually with other schools to gain points across four rounds, including an estimation and a memory round. The challenge certainly brought out the competitive spirit in our Year 7s and Year 8s who were incredibly focussed and resourceful.

Organisers even commended the poster created by one of our teams in the memory round as being one of the best of the day. Unfortunately, neither of our teams made it to the finals, but we are extremely proud of their efforts.

MATHS FEAST - ADVANCED MATHS PROGRAMME

In the older years, we had our Year 10 mathematicians compete in the Advanced Maths Programme Maths Feast. Students competed in four rounds of increasingly difficult team maths challenges and performed excellently against some tough opposition. We look forward to trying some of the problems during the advanced maths lunch club. Our teams consisted of Team 10 – Poppy S, Fahtima A, Tom M & Tristan H and Team 13 – Freddie C, Finley M, Joanne E & Maanasee N. Well done all.

UK MATHEMATICS TRUST INTERMEDIATE MATHS CHALLENGE

In Maths Challenges, 72 Year 9 and Year 10 students competed in the UK Mathematics Trust Intermediate Maths Challenge in February. This challenge is designed to test students' mathematical ability through problem solving and the challenge is taken by some of KWS's top mathematicians.

We would like to congratulate the following students who achieved a bronze award – Lucas C, Jack F, Ruairi A, Mia T, Umar-Farooq S, Alina C, John D, Harry H, Maanasee N, Tristan H, Rayan H, Hannah W, Jai B, Daniel F, Oliver Sh, Veer Sher S, Ethan S, Lola T, Alex C, Evan W, Rayan P and Walt R.

We would like to congratulate the following students who achieved a silver award – Alexander M, Joanne E, Dylan T, Jessica H, Becky D, Ben W and Freddie C.

We would like to congratulate the following two students who achieved a gold award and will be competing in follow on rounds against other students all over the country – Oliver G and Marco R.



The KWS ski trip

BY MR INNS AND MR CAIN

Katherine Warington School hosted their first ever ski trip during the Easter Holidays. It had such an amazing reception that the ski trip was fully booked within a couple of days! Students and Staff departed on Friday 31st March and made it to Dover in the evening. At the time, we were unaware of the situation at Dover so when we arrived, we had a big surprise. We were held up with other schools that were also making their way on Ski trips for approximately 11 hours. With our passports stamped in the early hours of the morning, we were on an early morning ferry and off on our French adventure. The students' behaviour throughout the whole time was amazing and they were very patient.

Once we made it to Alpe du Huez we all celebrated with a hot lunch before hitting the slopes that same afternoon. Although, that night we were all thankful when we could have a hot shower and slip into a comfortable bed. The views on the mountain were breathtaking, an icy delight for the students to enjoy. The children really enjoyed each and every skiing session and made progress with their learning to ski down the mountains. Some of our more advanced skiers wanted to increase the difficulty and created a competition. The rules were simple: the fastest skier was the winner. While many tried, the winner was victorious with a phenomenal speed of 100kmph!

Off the slopes, additional activities were planned and arranged by Mr Inns and Mr Cain. These included: movie night, crepe making, In'Vertigo, Ice skating and a disco on the final night. The KWS staff were very generous and even took the students in groups to explore the area and visit shops to buy things as well.

Thank you to all the staff members who helped to make the trip so successful. From your expertise on the slopes to your kind and caring words to students in need, it made a world of difference to the trip.



"The ski trip was so much fun! My group completed La Sarenne, Europe's longest black. The views from our balcony were amazing and we had a direct uninterrupted view of the French Alps." Thomas





“The Ski trip was an amazing opportunity to spend time with my friends and make friends with people I wouldn’t normally speak to. The ski resort was amazing and the skiing was really fun! The instructors were really kind and helpful, taking us on some really fun runs.” Alex



“I enjoyed the ski trip, especially skiing, as the instructors were fun and friendly. The views from the hotel were incredible and the evening activities were fun, especially crepe making and shopping in the village.” Isla



“I really enjoyed the ski trip to France. In my opinion there were a range of different evening activities such as crepe making, ice skating, table tennis and an elevated obstacle course which was very fun. I also enjoyed skiing so much and their ski instructors were so nice and friendly.” Will

“I really enjoyed the ski trip, the runs were incredible. One run that particularly reflected this was titled, Europe’s longest black run. The advanced group proceeded to go on many black runs all of which were fun. The evening activities were incredibly fun, especially the elevated obstacle course.” Sam

“The mountains were gorgeous! I had never been this high up in the mountains and I would definitely recommend it if you have never been.” Nelka



Mandarin trip

BY MR L CHEN, HEAD OF MANDARIN

THE DAY TRIP (for Year 8) TO BRITISH FILM INSTITUTE (BFI) Southbank London helped pupils gain an understanding of China's contemporary culture in an exploration of the nation's cinema. Pupils explored themes such as family, democracy, travel and technology in depth through textual analysis of key scenes in selected Chinese feature and short films.

KWS students keenly participated in the discussion with all other participating schools and really showed the 3Rs on the day. Well done to all students!

In the afternoon, students watched a full length screening of a recent Chinese film. Then we walked to China Town. They were able to dabble in the culinary delights from around the world and were treated to a wonderful banquet dinner before they returned to Harpenden.



"Thank you so much and please pass our thanks onto the other teachers who took the kids on the Mandarin trip to London. George really enjoyed it and I think it was a great experience for the children to have." Parent



YEAR 9 AND YEAR 10 MANDARIN STUDENTS were invited to go on a myriad of adventures in London as part of their GCSE programme. They were asked to go to the: British Library, British Museum, V&A Museum, Chinatown and Shaolin Temple UK.

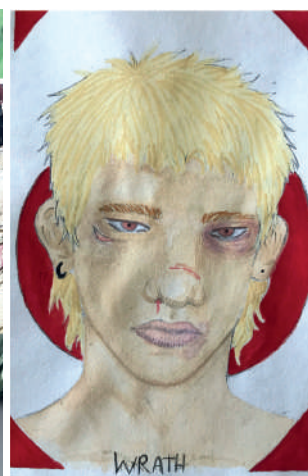
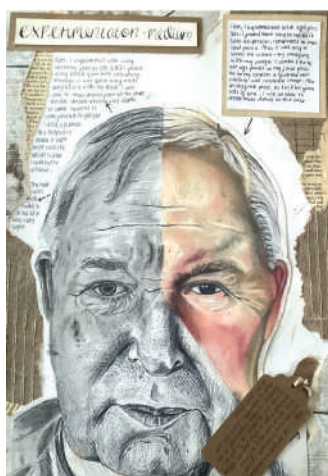
The trip provided students with first-hand experience of the subject matter in the curriculum that wouldn't otherwise be possible within the normal classroom environment. This helped students gain an understanding of China's 5000 year history in an exploration of Chinese People. Within their museum experience, students were invited to go on a Treasure Hunt in the Chinese collection. Later in the afternoon, they were taught some of the basics of Chinese Martial Art, and the importance of the philosophy that underpins it. At lunch we put what we'd learned in the classroom into practice in a Chinese restaurant.



"...I really enjoyed myself and am very grateful for all the effort you put in. There were many things I enjoyed, but my favourite was the Shaolin Temple, I found doing karate really fun. I also loved the restaurant, my favourite dish was definitely the beef."

Tycho





ART HIGHLIGHTS

BY MISS H ROBINSON, HEAD OF ART

▲ **GCSE WORK** - A selection of year 10 GCSE work. Students select and develop their own projects in response to a theme



▲ **YEAR 8** have been working on identity and heritage, development of form and value, the grid drawing method and clay sculpture.



▲ **ARTS LEADERS** have been working on a mural that represents each curriculum area through inspirational people that the wider school voted for.



► **YEAR 7** have been exploring patterns and motifs of the world and have created some lovely clay tile designs based on their research



▲ **YEAR 9 WORKSHOP** with Sarah Graham, a local artist based in Hitchin. Her work is known for her colourful use of sweets and kitsch ornaments and has featured in the AQA art exam paper. She created the cover for the Kaiser Chiefs album - Souvenir.



◀ **YEAR 9 COIL VASES** Students have built on their knowledge of slab and pinch pot clay methods to create coil vases based on the theme of natural forms.

DT, 3DD and Textiles

BY THE DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT



RADIOACTIVE METEORITE CHALLENGE

What do scissor-action grabbers, vending machine claws and parachutes all have in common? They are ingenious student inventions for handling a radioactive meteorite!

This year, KWS had the privilege of hosting the 23rd annual Rotary Technology Tournament in the sports hall. This competition is an inter-school competition for Design and Technology students, which puts some of the principals discussed in lessons into challenging situations. Our students competed against 30 teams from at least 7 local secondary schools to design and build devices to retrieve a ball (a radioactive meteorite) from within a protective case 1.5 metres away. A true engineering challenge!

Congratulations to Thomas R, Will E, Taye L, Lucas C, Dean H and Luke G who, whilst being some of the youngest in their category, dreamed up devices that successfully extracted the meteorite. We look forward to seeing what the KWS students can do next year!

OUTSTANDING WORK

The DT workshops have been a lively hub of designing, modelling and making. Here are some examples of well executed and thoughtful student work.



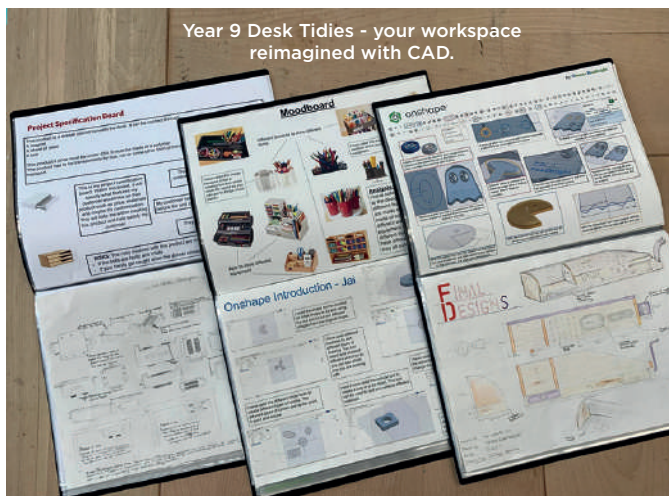
Year 7 Mobile Phone Holders - learning to make with wood and acrylic.



Year 8 Climate Change Keyrings - recycling and reworking bottle tops to promote a greener future.



Year 8 Aboriginal Tote Bags - exploring aboriginal art with sewing machines and acrylic paints.



Year 9 Desk Tidies - your workspace reimagined with CAD.



Year 10 Learning Through Play - objects to inspire our youngest generation.

Youth Speaks and Debating

BY MRS AIKMAN AND MRS RYMAN

YOUTH SPEAKS

The power of the written word has always been incredibly powerful, however, nothing is as powerful or rewarding as watching words come to life with oracy. KWS has always prided itself on the power of oracy and this year brought amazing success to our Youth Speaks Senior Teams and our Debating Teams.

Prior to the beginning of the academic year, Mrs Aikman selected six Year 10 students to begin preparations for the 2022/23 Youth Speaks competitions. Students were to come up with their own topic and debate both sides of the argument in a prepared manner. Rayan P, Fatima A, and Becky D looked to the future and discussed the importance of respecting the older generations. Whereas, Cuan P, Harry H and Freddie C posed the question of Freedom of Speech being a fallacy in modern day society. In the Autumn Term of the new academic year, students welcomed the support of Mrs Ryman. With a little bit of last minute performance preparation from Mr Church and hours of preparation, the students were in pristine condition for the first round.

Not only did the students perform with incredible poise and grace, but Katherine Warington welcomed a newest member to the team following the first Youth Speaks round. A first place trophy and Cuan, Harry and Freddie were off to the next round. The gentlemen argued wonderfully at the second round, but were up against stiff competition. The majority of other teams in the senior competition consisted of Year 13's from around the district. Cuan, Harry and Freddie fought valiantly, but



were not able to make it to the next round, but assured Mrs Aikman and Mrs Ryman that 'they'll get them next year'. We hope that next year will only present more opportunities in Youth Speaks, with hopes to take on a new Junior Team as well.

IN DEBATING, students have once again triumphed across the school districts with Katherine Warington students being involved in numerous competitions across Harpenden against St George's, Sir John Lawes, and Roundwood Park. We started the year off in fine form, being the first school to host a debating competition for the academic year. Students have since been invited to compete at a series of debates across Harpenden hosted by the other schools, which is a massive honour in itself.

Year on year, debating opportunities continue to grow. We are incredibly proud of the time and effort that our students put into debating and continue to be amazed with their progress. Not only this, but it was highlighted the impact that a focus on oracy skills is having across the school. A special thank you to: Florence C (Yr 8), Sophie H (Yr 8), Helena R (Yr 8), Dominic W (Yr 8), Martha R (Yr 9), Mia T (Yr 9), Tristan H (Yr 10), Becky D (Yr 10), Shalizeh G (Yr 10), and Jacob T (Yr 10).

Chess tournament

BY MISS BRIARS

Due to the rise in popularity of chess and at the request of many students, this year we have been hosting KWS's first ever chess competition. Initially, over 60 students, spread across all year groups, signed up to be involved with the chess tournament - which was a fantastic turnout! It was fantastic to see so many students engaged and engrossed by chess itself.

Students were playing Blitz matches against each other.

Throughout the tournament, students have displayed remarkable resilience and sportsmanship. It has been so far a fantastic opportunity for friendships to form between year groups and for chess knowledge to be shared. Students, even those who were not competing, have been coming in to support friends and watch matches which has built up a sense of community within the school.



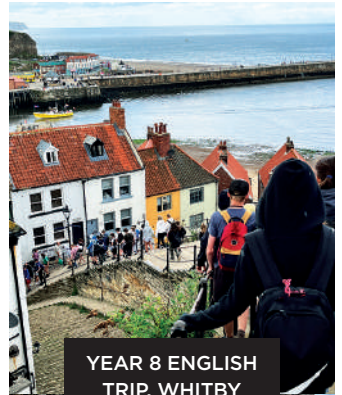
"I want to say a huge 'well done' to the students who have participated and supported the tournament. I look forward to hosting another chess tournament next year."



YEAR 9 STANBOROUGH LAKES TRIP



PERFORMING ARTS RESIDENTIAL, LONDON



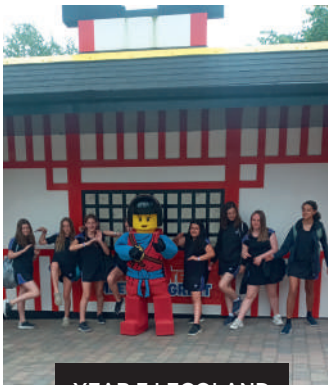
YEAR 8 ENGLISH TRIP, WHITBY



YEAR 10 MATHS ESCAPE ROOMS



ACTIVITIES WEEK GALLERY



YEAR 7 LEGOLAND



YEAR 10 HISTORY TRIP, GOLDEN HINDE



YEAR 10 SPANISH FLAMENCO DANCING

Careers at KWS

BY MISS PHILLIPS, CAREERS LEAD

A group of Year 8 and 9 students, who are interested in a career in healthcare or medicine, visited the Future Heroes Expo in Hatfield. Students had the opportunity to meet and talk to various professionals from within the NHS and other health care providers.

Their discussions encouraged them to find out about aspects of health care that are less well known, as well as what the possible routes are into each profession, including apprenticeships. As well as visiting the Autism and Dementia experience buses, students also used VR headsets to 'treat' a patient. A fun, but very informative morning was had by all!



◀ Gemma Johnson, Senior Vice President for General Merchandise and Buying Director for TK Maxx Europe presented Thomas C with a £100 voucher after he answered a quiz question correctly!



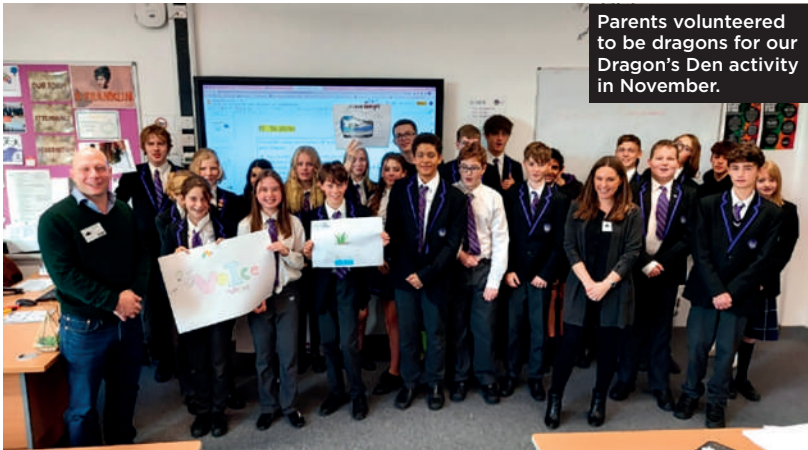
◀ We were fortunate to be visited by Jason Tarry, CEO for Tesco UK Operations to talk about his career path and the variety of opportunities at Tesco. All Year 10 students attended this event, which was fantastically run as a Q&A by our Head students. Students heard about Tesco apprenticeships, work ethic, sustainability at Tesco, and diversity, amongst many other things. The key message was to take every opportunity given to you, starting with making the most of your work experience.



CAREERS MONTH

At KWS, we have rebranded the month of March as "Careers Month". During this time, every student will receive at least one lesson per subject that has some form of 'careers' focus. It is hoped that this will provide students with knowledge about where each of their academic subjects could take them, in terms of their future pathways. We had a range of subjects, including visitors, a governmental decision making exercise and some teachers delivering from the 'My Learning, My Future' resources.

During this month, all staff were also encouraged to share their career journeys, the skills they developed and a piece of advice for students. Some teachers shared their experiences in the army, while others spent time on stage productions and working in television. We even had one staff reveal when they worked in a trampoline park. Students saw posters on classroom and office doors outlining this information and it is hoped that this will encourage curiosity from students and result in more conversations about careers taking place.



Parents volunteered to be dragons for our Dragon's Den activity in November.



"Students were given an opportunity to go to an event where people from these professions would talk about their jobs, ranging from radiographers, to paramedics and surgeons. A highlight for me was the chance to learn and experience what an actual surgeon uses to practise doing different practices. Also they provided two buses where you could experience life living with autism or dementia which was interesting to find out how life is from a different perspective. I found this trip useful to not only learn about the job itself but what it is actually like for people in day-to-day life. I hope the school will continue to provide opportunities like this in the future!" Imogen D

