



KPS NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2022

ISSUE 1



Painting by Maria, Year 8

It has been another busy term at Kensington Park School!

As the summer holidays approach, we reflect on some of the key highlights our school community has enjoyed not only over the last eight weeks, but throughout this academic year.

A year that began with one-way systems and social distancing measures has ended with a series of memorable events that have brought our KPS community back together again. From our long-awaited whole school musical, to another fantastic sports day; an inter-house music competition, a summer arts showcase, and two Duke of Edinburgh expeditions!

Our Lower School and Sixth Form students have once again been able to mix, with the resumption of our mentoring programme and Year 10 students taking their end of year exams at our Queen's Gate site.

For many of our students, this was the first time they had sat formal public examinations, and we are incredibly proud of the hard work and commitment they have shown.

We wish all of the KPS community a restful summer break, and look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 students, as well as all our familiar faces, back in September!

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Javelin at Sports Day, Battersea Park

1st - Tyburn (388pts)
2nd - Effra (370pts)
3rd - Fleet (368pts)
4th - Walbrook (298pts)

SPORTING SUCCESS

From individual successes on the national and international sporting stages, to thriving co-curricular clubs and our whole school Sports Day, our students have continued to show incredible commitment to their physical and mental health and well-being, as well as great enthusiasm for our sport programme!

Sports Day

KPS's annual Sports Day at the end of June took place at Battersea Park Millennium Arena, where our four houses — Effra, Fleet, Tyburn, and Walbrook — battled for gold in a series of Track & Field events. Having honed their skills through their P.E. and Games sessions over the course of the year, students put their knowledge to the test as they competed in Discus, Javelin, Long Jump, Shot Put, and 100m, 200m, 400m and 800m sprints.

The arena was ablaze with colour as students donned T shirts in their house colours, and with many of our parents and guardians joining us to cheer students on from the stands, there was a wonderful atmosphere of celebration, school spirit and friendly competition throughout the afternoon.

Despite fierce competition, House Tyburn was crowned the winner with a commanding 388-point victory! Well done to Tyburn and to all our students for their energy, competitive spirit, and for being such good sports!

Workshops & Clubs

As part of our broad-ranging co-curricular programme, KPS students have enjoyed a variety of exciting workshops this year, including our Self Defence programme with instructors from the London Self Defence Academy. Students even tried their hand at fencing during the Autumn Term with a GB Olympian Fencer!

Our sport clubs have remained popular, with Eton Fives, climbing, and ice-skating continuing to be firm favourites, not forgetting the now infamous KPS Dodgeball — a new addition which has already become a staple in the sporting schedule!



Lunchtime Football, Hyde Park



DofE Bronze and Silver
Award Expeditions

CARRY ON CAMPING

We were delighted to once again be able to run the Duke of Edinburgh programme this year and, as always, it proved to be a highlight!

At the end of April, students in the DofE Bronze and Silver Award groups headed to the Cotswolds to complete their assessed expedition. Loaded up with tents, stoves, and plenty of pot noodle, students had to rely on their navigation and orienteering skills to complete a minimum distance of 12km (40,000 steps). Fortunately, the cool and sunny weather conditions made for perfect walking weather, and despite a few navigational 'detours', all groups returned to the campsite (some a little later than others...)

Expedition leader, Andy, from River and Ride, was particularly impressed with our students, complimenting them on their behavior, manners, and positive attitude.



Map Reading in the Cotswolds



KPS has been recognised by the DofE Award Programme as falling within the top percentile of schools with regards to the number of active participants and completed volunteering hours. In total, between **1st April 2021 and 31st March 2022**, KPS students spent **273 hours volunteering**. That's **11 full days**, or 39 schools days – nearly a whole term! Well done KPS!

The final section of the DofE Silver Award took place during the first weekend of July in the Chilterns.

Several months of volunteering, learning a new skill, and taking on a physical activity, combined with preparation sessions in school on navigation, map reading, first aid, outdoor cooking, effective rucksack packing, and two practice hikes, culminated in this final challenge which saw ten students successfully navigate an impressive 50+ miles around the Chilterns!

In a show of competitive spirit, our two teams raced each other through fields and over hills, waded through streams, and navigated woodland, arriving back at base camp on their first day just 45 minutes apart! We are delighted that all ten students passed this section – and with smiles on their faces!

*Lunchtime Music Series*

PITCH PERFECT

The walls of KPS have been alive with more music than ever before this year!

Music lessons with our peripatetic teachers have continued apace, with students learning piano, trumpet, voice, drums, saxophone, acoustic, electric, and bass guitar, and we have enjoyed a variety of musical events and performances. From individually selected soloists performing for students and staff in our regular House Music Competitions, to formal concerts for the wider KPS community, there has been something for everyone to take part in and enjoy. More recently, our budding songwriters have even entered an external songwriting contest with their own original songs!

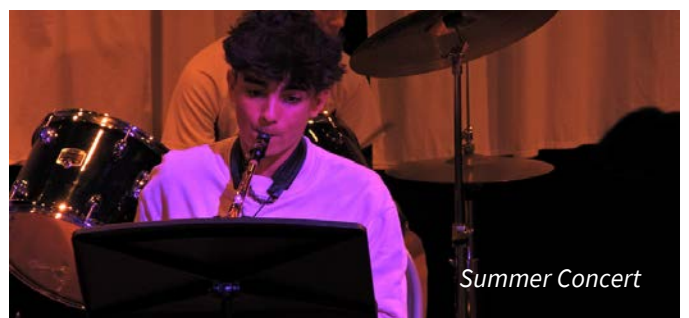
A staple in the KPS music calendar, regular House Music Competitions give our musicians the chance to not only compete for House points, but develop their confidence as they perform for the wider school community.

In both autumn and Spring, Fleet stole the show, however, the talent displayed by all of our performers should be congratulated!

Students further developed their confidence in performing during our informal lunchtime music series, which shared a wide variety of classical and contemporary pieces with staff and students in a non-competitive setting.

While the GCSE lunchtime series gave Year 10 experience performing some of the pieces they have been working on as part of the GCSE curriculum, the KS3 showcase celebrated our younger musicians in Years 7 to 9. For some, it was their first performance in front of an audience, and Ms Bernadino was really proud of the confidence they showed in performing for their peers.

Most recently, our end-of-year Summer Concert was a wonderful opportunity to invite parents, guardians, and friends back into the school building. Inspired by the history of film, our students' performances traversed a century of iconic themes, featuring amazing performances from students across Years 7 to 11.

*Summer Concert*

*Bugsy Malone*

'EVERYBODY LOVES THAT MAN, BUGSY MALONE' 🎵

Having twice been postponed as a result of the pandemic, and after nearly three years of waiting, the Summer Term saw our long-awaited Lower School production of *Bugsy Malone*. And while this may have been the first-ever KPS musical, judging by the talent on display, it certainly won't be the last!

The *Bugsy* cast delivered two wonderful performances to parents and friends who were transported to Prohibition-era New York City and a world of gangsters and whipped cream. Students from across music, drama, and art worked together to deliver a truly immersive experience. From the impressive *Fat Sam's* backdrop, elaborate splurge guns, and lighting and sound directed by our junior technicians, students were empowered to work collaboratively and gain the confidence to step outside of their comfort zones as they danced, sang, and doused one another in shaving cream!

Auditions have already begun for KPS's new Drama Club which will start in September, so watch this space!



*Summer Art and Music Showcase*

A WORLD OF CREATIVITY

*Summer Art and Music Showcase**Sixth Form Art Showcase**Sixth Form Art Showcase*

This term, we have celebrated creativity in all of its forms as both the Lower School and Sixth Form hosted art exhibitions to showcase student talent.

In May, the Sixth Form enjoyed a sophisticated evening of wine and cheese as work curated by Year 12 and Year 13 as part of the A level Art, Photography, and Film Studies curricula was put on display. From animation, short film, set design and illustration, to fine art, sculpture, and textiles, there was a huge variety of art to enjoy. It comes as no surprise that our students have received offers this year from universities such as Met Film School, UAL, Central Film School, and Istituto Marangoni for a range of courses in visual, multimedia, and creative arts.

In June, it was the Lower School's chance to shine as art produced by Years 7 to 9 and our art GCSE students was exhibited as part of our Summer Music and Art showcase, one of our fantastic cross-departmental events. Staff, students, and parents soaked up the art displayed around the school as they enjoyed the accompanying sounds of our talented musicians.



TEAS, TREES & JUBILEES

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee was a cause for celebration across the country as our monarch Queen Elizabeth II marked 70 years on the throne - and KPS was no exception!

At the Lower School, tree planting was followed by a delicious lunch in the restaurant serving some of the Queen's favourite foods, from honey rhubarb grilled chicken and baked salmon, to chocolate biscuit cake and lemon posset. Students then headed to Kensington Gardens for lawn games in the sunshine outside Kensington Palace - the perfect setting for our jubilee celebrations! At the Sixth Form, students took a much-needed break from revision to enjoy a traditional British picnic where no scone was left untasted!

A positively jubilant way to wind down the first half of the summer term!



TRAVELLING TREASURES

For Year 9, the world became a little bit smaller this term as they participated in an exciting cultural exchange project entitled 'Travelling Treasures' with students from Zhonghe Senior High School in Taiwan.

Having created introductory videos about themselves, students focused on collections found in the British Museum and Taiwan's National Palace Museum, selecting objects for their international peers to research.

The exchange culminated in an assembly during which students met over Zoom and exhibited their research presentations to one another. The project has been a fantastic way for our Year 9 students to learn about the rich cultural history of Taiwan, and to interact with students their age on the other side of the world!



THE END OF AN ERA

A Night at the Prom

Year 11 students celebrated the end of their GCSE examinations in style with a summer festival-themed prom! The theatre was transformed into a dancehall with a balloon arch, photo booth, DJ, decorative lighting and, of course, plenty of food and alcohol-free bubbles! Students were also treated to a slideshow of photographs of their time here which put a smile on everyone's faces!

This remarkable year group were some of the first students to join the Lower School when we opened our doors in 2018, and we are incredibly proud of all they have achieved during their time here. We look forward to welcoming many of them to the Sixth Form in September, and wish all our Year 11 students a well-deserved rest over the summer!



Year 11 Prom



Sixth Form Party

KPS 'Koachella'

For the Sixth Form end-of-year party, our boarding house became our very own KPS 'Koachella' for a night, with DJ, glitter face paints, a photo booth with props for personalised snaps, doughnut wall, and a variety of delicious 'street-food' prepared by our wonderful catering team, Holroyd Howe!

The party gave our tight-knit Sixth Form community the opportunity to come together to celebrate the end of another busy school year, to thank their teachers, and to say goodbye to our leavers.

We wish all our Year 13 students the very best of luck with their upcoming A level results and for their next chapter. We can't wait to invite them back into school for an alumni event next year!



Year 13 Leavers Photo

SIXTH FORM

An Enriching Experience

It has been another busy year for KPS Sixth Form with our co-curricular and enrichment programmes going from strength to strength! Year 12 students have enjoyed gym, debating and public speaking, museum tours, art and photography, and Young Enterprise, to name a few. The summer term even saw the introduction of tennis with Mr Sharpe! Volunteering has been a particular highlight and has seen students engage in a wide range of activities in the local area. In the Spring, students volunteered at Refettorio Felix, a fantastic local charity offering hot meals to vulnerable members of the community. The students were really humbled by their work and were inspired to seek out further outreach opportunities within the community.

A number of our Year 12s have been volunteering at local primary schools, Hill House International and St Stephen's School, where they have assisted with literacy and numeracy lessons. Not only did the primary school pupils benefit from the additional support, but our own students learnt valuable skills in teamwork and communication, and grew in confidence. At the Lower School, our mentoring programme has continued with Year 12 students supporting the maths and art departments with lesson delivery across Years 7 to 10. Our Lower School pupils greatly enjoyed the academic and pastoral support our Sixth Form mentors provided, and we look forward to growing the mentorship programme further next year!

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It seems like it was only yesterday that I joined KPS. My experience has been incredible. The diverse environment has led to my interest in parts of the world I had never thought of visiting before, like Italy, Portugal, and the Maldives. The level of teaching was impeccable, and the teachers were always readily available to help and answer questions. Right up until a few hours before our final exam, our teachers made sure that everyone was equipped for what was coming. Even through Covid times, the transition was smooth, almost as if nothing had changed. This is a time in my life I will forever remember. Thank you, KPS.

ADDI, OUTGOING HEAD OF SCHOOL

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UCAS Discovery Fair, University of East London

UCAS Fair

As our Year 13 students await their A level results in August which will secure their university places, our Year 12 students have started their own higher education journey with sessions this term on UCAS, the personal statement, and how to choose a university. In June, Year 12 attended a UCAS Discovery fair at the University of East London where representatives from all the UK universities were present to answer questions on their institutions. Students enjoyed a series of talks which inspired them to continue their own research on course choices and universities over the summer holidays.

WATCH THIS SPACE!

A number of our Year 12s have put themselves forward to interview for the coveted position of School Captain - an exciting leadership opportunity for students during their upper sixth year. We can't wait to announce our new school captains when we return in September!



Sixth Form Assembly

PSHE

The Sixth Form PSHE programme has continued to flourish this year, with students enjoying assemblies on a broad range of topics, from mental health and social media, National Poetry Day, COP26, and drug and alcohol awareness, to student-led assemblies on themes such as International Women's Day, Black History, and World Book Day.

Our Sixth Form students have also benefitted from our External Guest Speaker programme, with visiting speakers from organizations such as It Happens, Prevent, and BEAT leading engaging talks on consent, sex and relationships, suicide prevention, safer internet, and eating disorders.

PSHE is a vital part of the Sixth Form curriculum as we support our students to remain happy, healthy, safe and prepared for life beyond school, and we look forward to continuing to develop and extend the programme next year.



Visiting Speaker Programme

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



As the school is quite small it's easy to get along with people from all years, of all ages, forming a lovely, close-knit community. The teachers at the school are incredibly kind and always guide me in the most understandable and useful ways. There is a plethora of clubs during and after school, such as debating, language clubs, cricket or rugby. I particularly enjoy Philosophy Club because it widens my perspective on certain beliefs and betters my decision making. During the sunnier days, it's been enjoyable to go to the park and talk with friends or play a game. The school is quite diverse so it is interesting to find out more about other cultures or bond with people from the same country as you.

My highlight of the year is having a different sport club every single lunch! I love being active so this is a really good thing to have.

I like Mandarin because I have picked it up quite quickly. I'm excited for Year 8 because I want to see if I can progress with it even more! I am really happy with some of the grades I got in my End of Year exams because during the May half term break, I spent the week mainly studying.

My highlight of the year was starring in the school play. We had such fun during the rehearsals and the performance really paid off. I learnt a lot but also had so much fun.

I've really enjoyed my first year at KPS. I have especially enjoyed the range of clubs there are to choose from. One of my favorite parts of being at KPS is the friendly atmosphere coming from both the students and the teachers. The lessons are always very enjoyable.

For me, the Duke of Edinburgh Trip was the best part of the year. Not only did we get to enjoy the freedom of camping, but we also learnt new skills, helped the community with volunteering and got an award at the end!



Looking Ahead...

18th August 2022 A Level Results Day
25th August 2022 GCSE Exam Results Day
3rd & 4th September 2022 Boarders Return
5th September 2022 All students return to School

Term Dates 2022/23

Autumn Term 5th September - 15th December 2022
October Half Term 17th - 28th October 2022
Spring Term 9th January 2023 - 24th March 2023
February Half Term 13th - 17th February 2023
Summer Term 17th April - 30th June 2023
May Half Term 29th May - 2nd June 2023

