

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2024





NEW HEADMASTER
AT KPS

MEET MR FACCINELLO

Dear Parents,

As Headmaster of Kensington Park School, I am delighted to join this ambitious, inclusive, and wonderfully welcoming school community.

The best kind of education fosters a deep love of learning that we take through life. I want all KPS pupils to experience and enjoy a truly rounded holistic education in a supportive environment with a strong academic and pastoral focus. My career has covered the best of independent and state education, with a common theme of raising academic standards in leading independent schools such as Alleyn's School and RGS Guildford, and in state schools where pupils have gone on to win places at top universities including Oxford and Cambridge.

KPS has seen many changes since it first opened in 2018 but throughout it is clear that each pupil has remained as the absolute focus of our personalised approach. I see it in every lesson where our pupils are developing their intellectual interests, wide-ranging talents and self-confidence with teachers who have high expectations for them, know them as individuals and inspire their curiosity. I am excited to be leading this unique school and working with you and your children over the coming terms and years.



Mr Antony Faccinello, MA (Oxon) PGCE
HEADMASTER

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THE WARDROBE
CAST & CREW PHOTO

ARTS & CULTURE



Inside "The Wardrobe"

Audiences were invited to get caught up in the sweep of British history with KPS Drama's latest production, **The Wardrobe**, adapted from Sam Holcroft's acclaimed historical play commissioned by the National Theatre.

Set against the backdrop of seven centuries – from The Black Plague to the dawn of the Industrial Revolution – it reveals stories of young people from all walks of life who find sanctuary inside a centuries-old wardrobe.

Drama teacher Ms Kenyon and her cast, musicians and crew of talented students deftly navigated the complexities of their respective eras, offering an unforgettable theatrical performance for our school community, brought to life by the dedication, creativity, and passion of an outstanding collaborative team effort.



The Big Read

This term, tutor time on a Thursday morning was transformed into **The Big Read**, with students and teachers invited to spend the first half hour of the day immersed in the pleasures of a good book.

This initiative aims to promote literacy and a love of reading within our community and to ignite a passion for the written word beyond the confines of the classroom.

From timeless classics like Jane Austen's *Emma* to modern YA essentials such as Patrick Ness' "Chaos Walking" series, the selections offer students the opportunity to delve into different themes, genres and eras of literature, enriching their reading experience at a key stage in their academic development.



ARTS & CULTURE (cont'd)



Encounters with the Harp

This term, our Senior School music students received a harp workshop in our theatre brought to us by a professional musician for the **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra**.

Students had the option of sampling the two types of harp that are traditionally found in an orchestra: the pedal harp and the smaller lever harp.

They soon discovered that finding the right posture to play either kind of the instrument is no easy feat, as it requires finding the right balance point to not feel any of the weight instrument on you as you play.

Throughout the session, they received many useful tips on how to further their knowledge of the instrument as well as insights into the working life of a professional musician.



A Visit to the Saatchi Gallery

To finish off a busy term of exam prep, our GCSE and A level art students were treated to a private tour of the latest exhibition at the Saatchi Gallery – a large scale retrospective of works by world-renowned photographer **Edward Burtynsky**.

Featuring 94 of Burtynsky's large-format landscape photographs as well as 13 high-resolution murals, the exhibition revealed the artist's lifelong study of modernity encroaching on the natural world and got students thinking about the environmental impact of global industrialisation.

Following the tour, students were invited into the museum's private workshop to create murals of their own that will be displayed in the museum alongside other work from touring student groups.

SAUZE D'OULX

FEB 2024 SKI TRIP



Ski trip leaders, Ms Stowe, Ms Phillips, and Mr Mitchell kept a day-to-day diary of this once-in-a-lifetime experience for our students.

Sunday: The Expedition Begins

"The excitement was palpable as our early morning departure from KPS marked the beginning of our journey. After a smooth flight from Gatwick Airport, we braved the winding roads of Turin and hopped onto a private snow-cat that ferried us up the mountain, introducing us to the thrill of night-time mountain rides."

Monday: Ski Fit and First Descents

"The day started with ski fittings, ensuring everyone was suited up for the adventure ahead. With lessons under our belts, we conquered a total ski distance of 13 miles across 13 runs, reaching a max speed of 34mph. The slopes of Sauze D'Oulx became our playground, setting the stage for an exhilarating week."





Tuesday: Skiing Extravaganza and Fun in the Snow

"As the sun graced us with perfect weather, we covered an impressive 19 miles on skis, mastering 15 runs at speeds of up to 38mph. The lack of queues for chairlifts made for uninterrupted skiing bliss. After a day on the slopes, Quiz Night tested our newfound knowledge, and the evening was filled with sledding races, making memories under the starry Italian sky."

Wednesday: Confidence Peaks and Sestriere Exploration

"With our confidence soaring, we covered 20 miles on skis, conquering 17 runs at speeds up to 45mph. A change of scenery led us to Sestriere, the site of the 2020 KPS Ski Trip, creating a lovely nostalgic atmosphere. The day ended with a delightful Pizza Night Apres Ski in Sauze, followed by sweet crepes to satisfy our post-ski cravings."



"Sauze D'Oulx became our playground, setting the stage for an exhilarating week."





Thursday: Snowy Adventures and Olympic Dreams

"Skiing a remarkable 24 miles and mastering 19 runs at a max speed of 48mph, Thursday brought hints of snow, enhancing our skiing experience. The advanced group ventured to San Sicario, exploring the Olympic resort and piste runs. With a snowball fight in the morning and an evening filled with karaoke, there was a touch of friendly competition throughout the day."

Friday: Skills Showcase and Celebration

"A whopping 28 miles were achieved on Friday, with 22 runs at a max speed of 51mph. Amidst perfect snowy conditions, we showcased our skills and underwent a ski assessment, earning well-deserved awarded levels. The evening was a celebration of achievements with an award ceremony marking a triumphant week on the slopes."

Saturday: Farewell, Sauze D'Oulx

"As the sun set on our adventure, we sadly packed up, bidding adieu to the snowy paradise of Sauze D'Oulx. A unique experience awaited us as we took the chairlift down the mountain with our suitcases braving the pouring snow. A quick flight home – and the excitement of reuniting with parents – brought the curtain down on an unforgettable ski trip."



KPS SEASONAL LUNCHES:
ST PATRICK'S DAY

A SCHOOL FOR ALL SEASONS



Children's Mental Health Week

To honour Children's Mental Health Week, students were invited to take part in our **'Spring in Your Step'** wellbeing walk in Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens during the first hour of the school day.

Students were placed in their tutor groups and encouraged to share anything on their minds, or simply take in the early morning air with the friends and teachers.

Our student-run charity, KPS Can, also ran a Dress Down Day allowing students to ditch their uniforms in exchange for a donation to the one of the club's chosen causes.



Lunar New Year Celebrations

We marked the Lunar New Year with a week worth of memorable celebrations to ring in the Year of the Dragon.

Red envelopes with New Year's blessings were distributed to students and lunchtime brought us a delicious Chinese meal.

In music workshops, students were invited to play traditional instruments and gain insights into their cultural significance and historical roots. Later, they were guided through the rituals of preparing and serving tea, fostering a deeper understanding of this centuries-old practice.

We capped off the festivities with an impressive dragon dance stretching dozens of feet performed by a talented visiting artist.

NATURAL HISTORY
MUSEUM

STUDENT STORIES



Adela Takes the Race

Adela in Y12 represented KPS at the London Schools Athletic Association's Cross Country Championships in London where she competed in the 4km race and took home a silver medal.

Throughout her years at KPS, Adela has been consistently recognised for her outstanding athletic achievements and was shortlisted for the Independent School Athlete of the Term Award in 2022.

On the back of this latest achievement, Adela was selected to represent KPS at the English Schools Championships in West Yorkshire. We look forward to providing you with further updates on her next victories!



Can Made Int'l Chess Master

Can in Year 10 recently attended a Grandmaster Chess tournament where he was awarded the title of International Master by the International Chess Federation.

The rank is achieved by averaging a performance rating of at least 2450 over 9 or more games. The field must include at least three International Masters or Grandmasters, and a mix of players from several national federations.

Can had a remarkable showing at the tournament, with an average performance rating of 2455 across 9 matches. He was victorious in 7 out of 9.

Well done to Can for his hard work in achieving such a prestigious designation.

OLYMPIA, YEAR 12, WINS
IWD COMPETITION

SIXTH FORM STARS



International Women's Day

To celebrate IWD, the photos of inspirational women were placed all over the Sixth Form, inviting students to participate in an educational scavenger hunt where they tried to name as many as the figures pictured as they could.

In a remarkable turn of events, the competition was won by Olympia in Year 12 who it just so happens was joining us for her first day as a KPS student. Not a bad way to make a first impression!

The competition offered Sixth Formers a fun way to meaningfully reflect on this year's campaign theme of 'Inspiring Inclusion.'

From Marie Curie to Malala Yousafzai, it was a day of sharing stories from trailblazing women who paved the way.



Year 12 Volunteers

There has been outstanding participation in our volunteering initiative this term, with many in Y12 working at the Royal Trinity Hospice charity shop, an outstanding sustainable fashion initiative.

Each year, the charity rescues over 300 tonnes of secondhand goods from landfill, inviting our students to discover the positive environmental impact of buying sustainably.

Our volunteers work in pairs and cover four working days, fulfilling an assortment of responsibilities, from serving customers to preparing donated items to be sold on the shop floor.

They take great pride in this work and look forward to their time spent in the shop each week.



IMC RESULTS DAY

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS



Intermediate Maths Challenge

This term, students from Years 9 to 11 took part in the Intermediate Mathematical Challenge and the outcomes were nothing short of remarkable.

Two of our students, Anson and Daniel from Year 10, were awarded gold certificates, and Anson has now been invited to participate in the next stage of the competition, The Hamilton Olympiad, a six-question follow-on round for Year 10 students.

The rest of this talented group received silver and bronze certificates, placing them amongst the highest achievers in the overall competition.

We are very proud of their outstanding work, and look forward to more IMC events in the future.



Giulia Gains World's Highest Mark

We are delighted to announce that Giulia in Year 11 gained the highest mark in the world for IGCSE Italian in the June 2023 Cambridge exams.

As one of our two Heads of Senior School, Giulia is an active member of our school community and consistently sets a wonderful example to other students.

This stunning achievement is made all the more significant as she sat the exam a year early.

Congratulations to Giulia, and best of luck as she sits the rest of her GCSE exams next term.

DR MAROON

HEAD OF UCAS

Q&A

How does our UCAS programme provide the necessary individual guidance to each student?

All KPS Sixth Form students have one-to-one meetings with their personal tutors to advise on their aspirations and intentions for university study. In Year 12, students visit the UCAS Discovery Day exhibition which includes exhibition stalls from all UK universities, as well as a series of seminars on the application process and information on what university courses are like.

During enrichment sessions, I advise Year 12 students about the process of applying, i.e., how to register on UCAS; how to structure your writing on the personal statement questions; and what factors to consider when making your choices. I also hold a weekly workshop where students can drop in to discuss any issues with their applications. In addition, I am always available to students for one-to-one meetings about their university applications, and to give feedback and support for personal statement writing.

"The process of applying to university is not as difficult as it can seem if you have clear goals and are ready to do the work required in good time."



What advice would you give to a prospective student embarking on the UCAS programme?

Any student entering the Sixth Form should try and get a clear picture of their goals for university study as soon as possible through early research. They should choose to study those subjects that they truly enjoy the most, as this will better motivate them to achieve their desired results.

The process of applying to university is not as difficult as it can seem if you have clear goals and are ready to do the work required in good time. The key thing for students to remember is that getting into the course of your dreams will not simply be based on the strength of your application.

It is also about achieving the best possible A level results by developing consistent self-motivated study.

SIXTH FORM HEADS OF SCHOOL
CAMPAIGN ASSEMBLY

HEADS OF SCHOOL



Senior School

At the final assembly of term, our new Year 10 Prefects, House Captains, and Heads of Senior School were announced with **Fadwa and Henry J** chosen to serve as our next school heads!

Mrs. Emerton thanked our outgoing leadership, Giulia and Sebastian, for serving as model ambassadors for KPS, and for improving life at Senior School for our students.

Fadwa and Henry are very engaged members of our community, with both having participated in school plays and house competitions. Each brings their own unique stamp to the role and looks forward to sharing their initiatives with the school.



Sixth Form

Due to a record number of impressive candidates this year, we decided to expand the number of Sixth Form leads from two to three pupils who will spearhead school initiatives going forward.

We are pleased to announce that the winner's of this competitive year's race are...

Dominik, Alina, and Benjamin!

These three secured the highest number of votes, impressing teachers and their peers with their impassioned speeches and interviews.

Each will be assigned individual tasks that they will carry out alongside the Sixth Form school council, ensuring that student voice is well represented throughout the Sixth Form.

