KEW HOUSE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2024

BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK PHYSICS IN FOCUS

SPORTS ROUND UP

POP, ROCK, SOUL AND JAZZ GIG HIGHLIGHTS

NORMANDY CONQUEST Y8 LANGUAGE TRIP TO FRANCE

A VISIT FROM OUR GERMAN EXCHANGE FRIENDS

HEAD BOY AND HEAD GIRL SUMMARY

GARDENER SCHOOLS GROUP

WELCOME TO OUR SPRING NEWSLETTER

"Growth demands a temporary surrender of security." - Gail Sheehy.

The least secure of environments is the exam room; a dark place that we all have visited, toiled within and fled - under controlled dismissal instructions, adhering to JCQ guidelines - of course. In January our valiant Year 11 and 13 pupils stepped into the dark for their mock exams and returned to the light of their classrooms, two weeks later. For them, the Easter break will feature much personal sacrifice to lay down the foundations of their summer success. The key skills for revision, for both groups have been delivered across their Gardener Award lessons from Year 7, their classroom teachers have given them specific tips and tricks whilst in addition, since half term, they have received professional support to help them make the most of the hours they have to revise. We wish them all the best of good fortune as they set out to put all of their learning into their preparations.

For many pupils the risk of being wrong with an answer, the risk of looking foolish in front of a class or that lack of security in knowing that they are not being judged can be debilitating. One of the strengths of our learning community is its support of everyone within it to live by the maxim that we are all different and that is what makes us equal. In providing for each other we create the security for risks to be taken and for growth to occur. Alas, life does contain slings and arrows and preparing young people for their futures requires them to test themselves, to accept risk and to surrender security. Resilience is the building of bouncebackability, learning from failing, risking failure. If there is an art to teaching, it is in creating those events in the lives of young people from which they grow, from which they learn; about themselves, as much as about the subject at hand. On the games field or the river, failure in sports is clear and obvious. Lost matches stimulate reflection and then coaching foci, this same sequence fits for so many other occasions when the outcome was not quite what we want it to be. But, just as we go to the next fixture primed to do better, so too do we walk into the next lesson, aiming for a better result; higher score in a test, a positive contribution to group work, whatever our metric of success may be.

So as we celebrate the spring term in this newsletter and look forward to the term ahead, spare a thought for those two years groups who will step into the exam rooms. We hope that by reflection and hard preparations, they will have reduced their sense of insecurity, and will thrive as they work through their exams.

Will

Mr Will Williams
Headmaster, Kew House School

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Wet weather did not dampen the spirits of Kew House pupils across a variety of sporting disciplines. Successes at external competitions, house and inter-school fixtures were aplenty and well done to all who braved the cold and most wet conditions this term.

10 Science
This term saw our Year 11 pupils entering the Oxford University Olympiad Physics Challenge and our Year 10 students who came joint second in the experimental challenge at the Girls' Physics Tournament. Find out how our Year 12 Biology A Level students fared at Bushy Park and how Year 7 took on the challenge of building a bridge without many materials during Science Week.

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Year 12s visited The Design Museum to learn more about skateboards, which they will be designing and building this year. Congratulations to a Year 11 pupil who has made it through to the final round of the Arkwright Engineering Scholarship application process.

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Teachers transformed into literary characters on World Book Day. The day included various challenges which were taken up by students across all year groups. Find out how Year 8 created their own puppets and performed scenes from Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. Read about Poetry Slam .... courtesy of Year 8.

16 Languages
The Languages Department have been busy hosting and travelling this term. Learn about the experiences of our German exchange students as well as the wonderful stay in a French château in Normandy.

18 Careers, Assemblies, Study Skills and more ...
Find out about the Assemblies which have taken place this term and their role in helping our pupils reflect on what is happening in the world around them. Learn about the Study Skills Day at Oxford University from a Year 12 pupil and find out more about Year 9's Duke of Edinburgh Training Day in Bushy Park. 18 Sixth Formers are competing in this year's Tycoon Enterprise national competition and hoping to progress to the final.

20 Maths
Students showcase their impressive maths skills through participation in extension competitions, offered as part of the KHS extracurricular club programme.

21 Celebrating Success at KHS
Every pupil's success matters at Kew House School and here are just a few highlights from the spring term. Pupil band, 'Askew' performed at the renowned SXSW Festival in Texas, rubbing shoulders with many famous celebrities ... or at least being at the same event as them! We congratulate Alex, who embarked on his Oxford University journey, a testament to his unwavering academic dedication.

22 Library
Author visits, World Book Day, Speed Reads and Teen Reads .... it's been a very busy term at the Library!

23 Education Transformed
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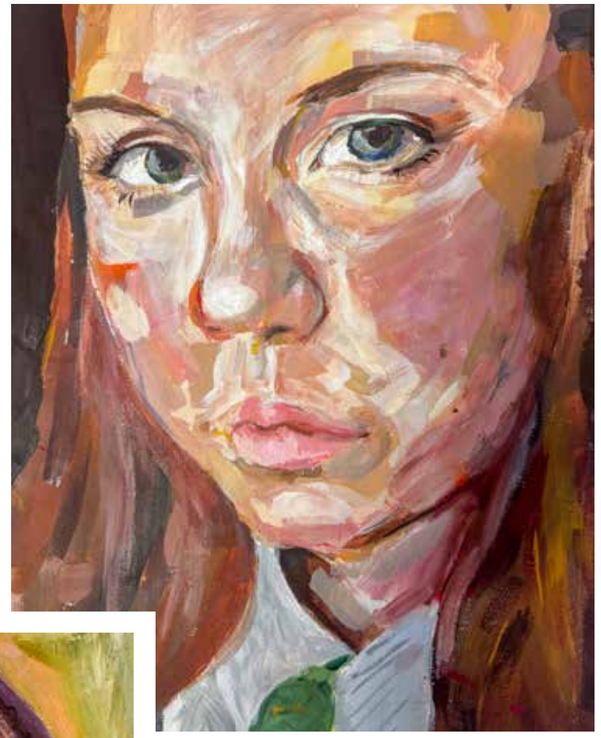
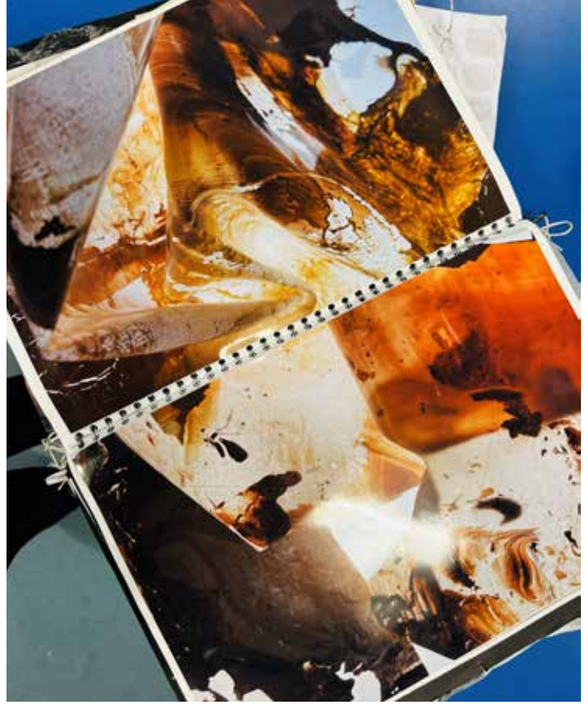
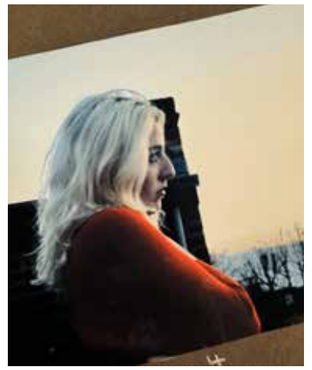
ART GALLERY

Ms Mia Hodgson
Head of Art





YEAR 13 COURSEWORK HIGHLIGHTS



YEAR 9 PORTRAITS AND YEAR 10 GESTURAL PAINTING EXPERIMENTS

MUSIC

POP, ROCK, SOUL, AND JAZZ GIG

Mr Rupert Gardner
Director of Music

The Sixth Form ILC was transformed into the Kew House Jazz Café on the final evening of the spring term for a Pop, Rock, Soul, and Jazz gig. The library shelves gave way to a lighting rig, the site team built us a raised stage, and the student-led bands performed material by The Kinks, Artic Monkey, Nina Simone, The Fugees and, of course Stevie Wonder – no KHS soul-band gig is complete without a Stevie cover or two!

"This is like being in a pro London venue – they're amazing"

Feedback from parents in the audience

It is impossible to pick out highlight pieces, but it's worth mentioning the multi-talented instrumentalists such as William P (Y10), Nolan M (Y10), Philip C (Y11), and Edward M (Y8) who, between them can switch between solo roles on any of piano, double bass, bass guitar, trumpet, and sax.

Mr King (Head of Science) commented on our Y11 and Y12 singers' ability to hold a perfect 3-part harmony in front of a 10-piece soul band "how do they do that?" ... That's magic, Mr King!

FOOD AND NUTRITION

Ms Helen Earle
Head of Food Science and Nutrition

We are excited to share the tasty highlights from our Food and Nutrition Department. Our pupils have been mastering the art of cooking, and it has been a joy to witness their culinary skills in action.

In Year 8's Easter cupcake competition, creative skills flourished as pupils baked a batch of cakes, each adorned with vibrant spring-themed decorations.

Year 9 presented savoury dishes from a cuisine of their choice; Year 10 filleted whole fish.

Year 11 and 13 presented exceptionally high standard outcomes for their practical exams. Beyond the tasty results, our students also impressed us with their attention to food safety and teamwork. We believe that these practical experiences not only make learning fun but also help our students develop essential life skills. We cannot wait to see what more culinary adventures await in the summer term.

Y10 learning how to fillet a fish!

Y11 breaded fish

Y8 Easter cupcake competition baking

'Y9 creating meringue kisses

SPORT

Annual KHSBC celebration rowing dinner

KEW THE WET WEATHER

Mr Paddy Graham
Head of Rowing

After an incredibly long and rather wet winter, the boat club have completed their 2023-2024 head racing season. After many months of rain and cancellations, KHSBC crews finally took to the River Thames and Dorney Lake for some much-needed racing!

Our senior girls and boys took to the championship course of the Thames, racing from Mortlake to Putney for the Schools' Head, Women's Head and Eight's Head of the River. This marked KHSBC's first season entering two women's eights into these national head races.

Our J14 - J15 cohort raced at the national junior sculling head to mark their first trip to Dorney Lake this season. A lot of experience gained and an absolute blast to finally give our J14 cohort some racing experience. A massive congratulations to Yew House for once again dominating the Easter House Regatta. Next stop... Summer!

HOCKEY

Ms Philippa Blandford
Head of Games

It has been a delight to watch our students out on the pitch playing co-educational hockey. The effort and attitude on display in training and fixtures has truly reflected the spirit of KHS. Notably our U13 squad have had a good season, the A team beating Harrodian, IPS, MVS and London Parks.

GCSE PE ROCK CLIMBING

Ryan Gregory
Director of Sport

We are always looking for the best ways to support our academic PE pupils to achieve the highest possible grades while experiencing and enjoying new and varied activities. This year, for the first time, we introduced Rock Climbing to our Year 9 and 10 GCSE pupils and the pupils absolutely loved their first weeks. Hosted at the fantastic Ravenswall Climbing Centre, the sessions are well coached, and the pupils are already displaying lots of progress in a wide variety of skills.

CROSS COUNTRY

Ryan Gregory
Director of Sport

It has been a very successful cross-country season at KHS which started back in October and has ended in recent weeks with 4 of our runners competing in national finals. After a superb performance by the whole KHS team at the Hounslow Borough Championships in November, we had a record number of 17 pupils qualifying for the next round from Years 7-11. All 17 qualifiers represented Hounslow superbly at the Middlesex Championships at Harrow in January and Louis

M (Year 11) again qualifying to represent Middlesex County at English Schools for the second year running. After another strong run, Louis finished 34th out of the 329 runners on the day and was Middlesex's top performer by some distance. A huge congratulations to Louis from all at KHS. Your hard work is paying off.

At the ISA London West regional event in February, we once again had a record number of KHS athletes competing on the day, with two standout performances from Sebastian D and Theo W in Year 7 who finished 2nd and 4th in the race, respectively. This once more qualified more KHS runners for a national final and congratulations must go to these boys for doing so well in their first year of cross country at KHS. At the ISA National Final, Theo finished 5th overall and Sebastian, 11th.

ANNUAL HOUSE EVENTS

During the last week of term we held our annual Easter term house cross country event at Gunnersbury Park. Despite the muddy conditions, everyone had fun and battled through to come away with some excellent results, well done to all who took part – it wasn't easy!

Congratulations to Yew House for the overall win and the following students on placing top 3 in the race!

	Y7 girls	Y7 boys	Y8 Girls	Y8 boys
1st	Sofia W	Theo W	Celine C	Tommy C
2nd	Jasmine P	Seb D	Darcey S	Hippolyte C-I
3rd	Megan L	Kiran R	Kara P	Rudi N

	Y9 girls	Y9 Boys	Y10 Girls	Y10 boys
1st	Lara M	Zach M	Jemima S	Harry H
2nd	Maisie M	Frankie A	Alexandra R	Frederick W
3rd	Amelie R	Alberto W	Fleur T	Shriyans S

RUGBY AND FOOTBALL

Mr Michael Kinsella
Head of Games

All our students represent our school whether it's in the A or D team. Inclusion and equality over results is our ambition. Providing our pupils with the chance to participate in sports within a competitive environment. This allows growth of character through 'the ups and downs that sport provides. We have had terrible weather this term which has had a negative impact for our fixtures. However, as a school we have played 21 rugby matches, winning 13. This is a great return for KHS. Our seniors enjoyed a victory over our friends at Maida Vale. Luc being the stand-out player. We then decided to stretch and challenge our students by entering them into two elite school level 7s tournaments. The teams managed to win a few matches but most importantly our pupils experienced playing against brilliant opposition which will only enhance their growth.

When we could not train due to waterlogged pitches, we made use of our new gym. Working on different aspects of fitness to help the team's rugby development. The work continued, just in a different way.

Our seniors enjoyed fixtures against: John Lyon, Ibstock, Wetherby and Fulham School. Winning 50% of these matches with all our seniors playing for their school. Since September we have had fifty students play in fixtures once every two weeks. Great dedication and application has been shown by all.

A special mention to the following:

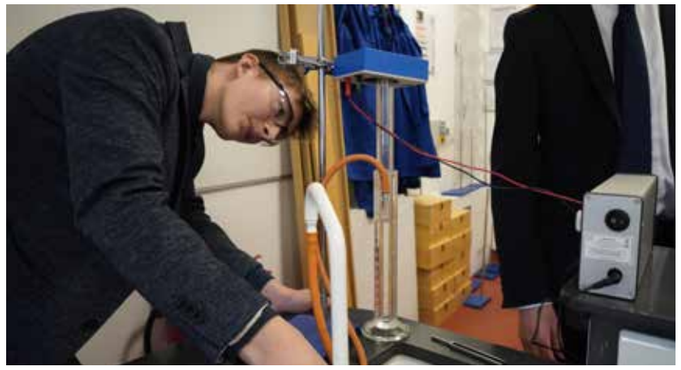
Year 7	Player of the term	Milo (Rugby)
Year 7	Most improved	Theo (Rugby)
Year 8	Player of the term	Hipp and Ryan (Rugby)
Year 8	Most improved	Rudi (Rugby)
Year 9	Player of the term	Ali (Rugby)
Year 9	Most improved	Alberto (Rugby)
Year 10	Player of the term	Dexter (Rugby)
Year 10	Most improved	Monty (Rugby)
Senior	Player of the team	Benny (Football)
Senior	Most improved player	Archie (Football)

SCIENCE

Angela Celentano
Head of Physics

EVERYDAY PHYSICS
Y12 LESSON

The objective of this particular lesson was to perform an investigation into 'standing waves within a closed tube'. This is a 'required practical' on the A-Level course and contributes towards their understanding of wave interference and reflection. In this experiment, the pupils were reflecting sound waves down a pipe and off a water-surface boundary, at the bottom. At particular lengths, the sound wave will reflect back up the pipe, interfere with itself and set up a standing wave which students will hear as a loud, resonant tone. Their objective was to identify and analyse the various lengths of the tube at which this resonance tone could be heard. Applying one's understanding of standing waves can explain how musical instruments work, such as the flute, pan pipes and other woodwind and brass instruments.



GCSE REVISION
Y11 PHYSICS

Year 11 students investigated the speed of waves in a liquid. They used compact ripple tanks with integrated stroboscopes to determine the frequency and wavelength of rippling water waves. This is an essential experiment on the GCSE syllabus, and our pupils reviewed it for the second time as part of their revision.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY OLYMPIAD CHALLENGE
Y11 PHYSICS

The Intermediate Physics Olympiad Challenge is run by Oxford University. Some of our award winners attended a Super-Curricular club to help prepare for the exam, run by our visiting physics undergraduate from Imperial College, London.

The exam took place on Friday 8th March, with many of our Year 11 pupils gaining awards.

The examination aims to test Year 11 pupils above and beyond the standard GCSE syllabus, stretching them to Year 12 levels in most questions. Well done to the following students!

Year 11		Points	Award
Alice	B	3	Commendation
George	A-D	5	Bronze II
Eva	C	6	Bronze II
Arthur	P	9	Bronze II
Joshua	W	10	Bronze II
Philip	C	13	Bronze I
Marc	P	18	Silver
Will	M	21	Gold

PHYSICS TOURNAMENT
Y10 GIRLS

At the start of British Science Week, Francesca C, Isis T, Poppy P and Marielena P in Year 10 represented Kew House School at the Year 10 Girls' Physics Tournament, securing joint second place in the experimental challenge!

Schools from across London attended this annual established event on International Women's Day, based in Northwest London. Our Kew House girls battled bravely in a variety of physics events, including the calculations race and escape room challenge. They stretched their problem-solving skills under high-pressure conditions admirably, working fluently as a team. Well done!

BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK
Y7 BRIDGE BUILDING

During British Science Week, Year 7 students embraced the annual bridge building challenge! Equipped with not much more than wooden sticks, cartridge paper, cellotape, and string, their task was to construct bridges capable of supporting the maximum weight possible, thereby testing structure and strength. Working within a designated time frame, they collaborated in small teams to design constructions sturdy and wide enough for toy cars to traverse before undergoing the ultimate weight test. Through trial and error, they gained insights into engineering principles and the significance of teamwork. Despite encountering obstacles, the students persevered, ultimately subjecting their creations to scrutiny by their peers and marked on Aesthetic, Mass and Design! Well done to all who participated in this testing but fun activity!

BIOLOGY FIELD TRIP
Y12

Philippa Lewis
Teacher of Biology

On Thursday 7th and Friday 8th March, our Year 12 biologists went to Bushy Park to carry out various sampling techniques that will contribute to the practical endorsement part of the course. They demonstrated excellent teamwork skills by delegating roles amongst the group whilst using quadrats, transects and pond nets to sample different habitats. They investigated the effects on biodiversity in managed and unmanaged meadows, ponds and along nature trails. They then completed statistical tests to interrupt their results and draw conclusions. It was great to see their minds come together to plan their own investigation and their enthusiasm for freshwater invertebrates and woodland plants come to life. They even had a go at tackling biological drawings of the species they had identified.

'I have enjoyed pond dipping and seeing new living organisms that I never knew existed. It was exciting when we caught leeches, freshwater shrimps and greater water boatmen and identified them under the magnifying glass.'

Ben L

'When we were first told to sample the meadow all I could see was grass. I never realised the number of different species that existed in a field and now I can identify yarrow anywhere'

Charlotte T-A

'I enjoyed coming up with our own hypothesis and proving our peers wrong through statistical analysts'

Zara P-B

D&T

Miss Tracy Hall
Head of Design & Technology

EXAM SUCCESS FOR KEW HOUSE STUDENT

ARKWRIGHT ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIP

Congratulations to Oliver, one of our Year 11 Design and Technology students, for passing the Arkwright Engineering Scholarship aptitude exam on 1st February. Oliver is now through to the final round of the application process, with an online 30-minute interview in April this year. If successful, the Smallpiece Trust will provide Oliver with funding, a mentor and a sponsor to assist him through his A-Levels. Oliver said, "It is a pleasure to be selected for this prestigious award. Hopefully, if I am successful, it will help me throughout the rest of my school years at Kew, as well as my career."

ARKWRIGHT
ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIPS

the DESIGN MUSEUM

SKATEBOARD DESIGN

THE DESIGN MUSEUM

Currently our Year 12 Design and Technology students are designing and making their own skateboards, learning about the wood lamination process using airbags. What better way to consolidate their knowledge and skills than to visit the Skateboard Design Exhibition at The Design Museum. On display were around 90 rare and unique board designs from the 1950s to the present day, from homemade, humble beginnings to today's professional and technologically advanced models. There was also a skateboard ramp for open skate sessions and one of the museum attendants took a photo of us on the ramp, whilst it wasn't being used!

A FEW WORDS FROM OUR HEAD BOY AND HEAD GIRL

As head girl and boy our main responsibility is to be the bridge between students and teachers. We have aimed to strengthen student voice and improve the environment around them by making sure they are in a place they feel is their second home.

One way which we have achieved this is through setting up a student portal. A place where students can voice concerns anonymously, Year 9's and 7's can sign up for the mentorship program set up by one of our Senior Prefects, and where students will be able to locate resources on their favourite subject so they can explore any topic beyond the specification. Not only that but the portal enables students to identify who to contact within the headship team if they have any suggestions, ideas, or concerns in areas such as Sports & Arts, Wellbeing, Diversity & Inclusion, and Charity fundraising. Thereby, enabling any student to take the initiative to fulfil a project of their choosing with support from our Prefects. As a bonus, students can access the House standings and see what position their house is in throughout the year. This is the first time in the school's history that students have so many opportunities to impact change and make the school a better environment for learning.

Another responsibility and aim we have had is to support a range of charities over the past year. We have been able to support the incredible charity City Harvest which delivers a staggering 1.2 million meals a month to people in London. As a school community, we were encouraged to bring in food which was then personally delivered to the charity. We were able to raise an unbelievable 72 kilograms of food equating to 171 meals to people in London.

In addition, we hosted the school's first culture day this year. Students and staff were given the opportunity to dress up in colours representing their flags and cultures. Alongside this a culture day bake sale was held with a range of wonderful food from cultures all over the world such as Samosas available for people to buy with the donated money going to the Raise the Children charity.

These are just two examples of the charities we've supported over the last 12 months, and we look forward to supporting many more in the next academic year.

Imogen A - Head Girl

Rodrigo S - Head Boy

DRAMA SPRING ROUND UP

Mrs Jillian Mannion

Theatre Trips
Drama students had two opportunities to visit the Lyric Hammersmith this term, firstly our Sixth Form students went to see a new adaptation of 'Metamorphosis' by Lemm Sissay and performed in an innovative physical theatre style by Frantic Assembly. Students commented the show was 'shocking and scary! The performer was super talented – I don't know how he did it!' (Zara P-B, Year 12).

Then Year 11, 12 and 13 students were moved and inspired by Rachel O'Riordan's new production of 'Faith Healer' by Brian Friel. This emotive monologue play tells the story of Francis Hardy from three different perspectives and leaves the audience wondering where the truth actually lies. Students enjoyed the 'impressive performance' (Izzy, Year 11)

Performances
Students in Year 11 and 13 culminated their practical work with showcase performances to visiting examiners. The A-level group tackled bold themes by presenting scenes from Tony Kushner's 'Angels in America' set during the 1980s AIDS crisis. Some GCSE students entertained and amused their audiences with

So Long... Farewell...
As I leave Kew House after 9 fabulous years, I want to sincerely thank all the students and their families, past and present, who have supported the Drama Department with shows, trips and sharing your talents. I will miss working with all the wonderful, talented students of Kew House and my lovely, hard-working colleagues but I plan to visit very soon!

ENGLISH

WORLD BOOK DAY

Ms Siobhan Milgate
Head of English

We celebrated World Book Day with a character challenge this year. Hidden around the school, students found that many teachers had transformed into famous literary characters, authors or representations of a specific book. The prize for best costume surely had to go to Mr. Hale in his cape and deerstalker cape as Mr Sherlock Holmes! The task was for people to see how many books and characters they could identify throughout the day and it was wonderful to see so many students from Year 7 through to Year 13 participating.

We built upon this enthusiasm in our assemblies throughout the week, and students in KS4 and KS5 were inspired by stories by Mr. Rhodes and Mr. Long about their reading experiences as teenagers. Students in KS3 were treated to a dramatic reading by Ms Zubrzycki and we all ended the week with some new book recommendations and excitment about next year's celebrations.

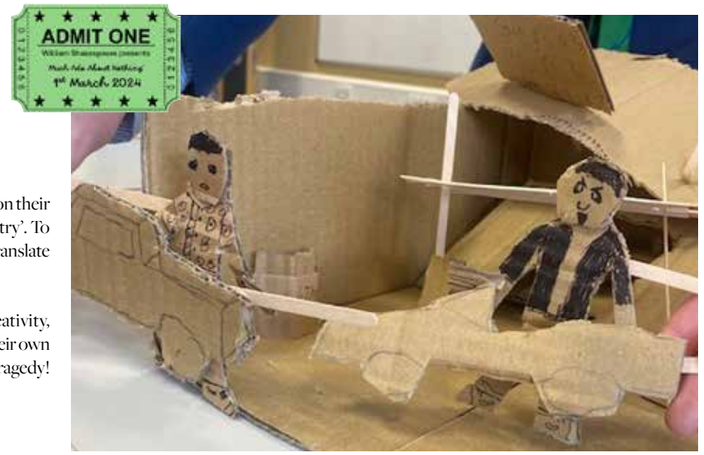
"I liked that the teachers dressed up - we got to see a different side to them and the books they like" Jess L, 8K

"I loved our World Book Day assembly. Ms Z talked to us about how she is writing a novel and it was cool to hear her ideas and how she goes about writing. I liked that she ask our opinions, it was interesting to learn about the process" Archie G and Darcey S, 8K

Character hunt winners:
Jasmin P, 7L | Grace HK, 7K | Sasha E, 7H | Mika R, 7H

KS3 - YEAR 8 ROMEO AND JULIET PUPPET THEATRES

Ms Ashleigh Jones
Teacher of English



As this term draws to an end, students in Year 8 have reflected on their study of Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet' and 'Women in Poetry'. To explore Shakespeare's writing, and consider how this might translate to the stage, a creative challenge was posed!

With only one lesson, a shoebox and a big spoonful of creativity, teamwork and determination, students designed and created their own puppet theatres to convey a specific scene from this famous tragedy!

WORLD POETY DAY

POETRY SLAM

To celebrate World Poetry Day, students in 8L participated in a poetry slam, which focused on the theme of animals! With the chosen creatures including an axolotl, a sloth, a naked mole-rat and a turtle, students flexed their creative muscles to write, rehearse and perform their poem.

To judge our poets, Mr. Spencer and Ms. Healey were invited to share their thoughts and perspectives. Students' collaborative skills, and consideration of effects were applauded! We also heard the importance of choosing words deliberately for effect, with sometimes the simplest language having the greatest impact.

Winning Entry: Turtle

Turtles glide freely along the sandy beaches.
The sand fuels them up with a sense of hope for the climate.
The silky water gently flows like a call to home.
Years, months, days later
Their brains, their bodies, their souls were engulfed in plastic.
His brain a prison made of the fear of plastic, which never ventures far.
Turtle screams the words "Freedom"!
Stress was seeping through their minds: worry his poison.
Apprehension his master. Plummeting into a grave.
His soul a slave for what his life could be.
The endless possibilities there could be.

Axolotl

Its eyes opened. He was hoping they would stay shut.
He wearily walked to the edge of his cliff. The walk turned into a melancholy strut.
A scream of fury called out to the deep and untamed open.
Hello ... hello ... hello... It came from a heart that was broken.
His sea-green eyes stared into his own reflection.
Only the sky knows how the axolotl wished for affection.
The axolotl loved when a school of fish swam past his home.
But not when streams of cold would shake him to his brittle bones.
Time and time again he would decide that he had had enough.
But every time he tried, he would fail to make the jump.
The thought of finding a loyal friend could be fulfilled if
The poor old axolotl wasn't stranded on his cliff.

Sloth

It yearns for a mate as it reminisces.
For it is the beast that gave up its speed to swim
As it climbs through the canopy.
It does not stop to think
Since it is the sin of sloth.
In fact, it is the embodiment of laziness.
It only ever goes fast when traversing the sparkling waters in its neighbourhood
As it eats fruit it got from an hour ago and now
It is always wishing for a cozy place to sleep
Until the sun stops rising.
For as long as the sea keeps flowing for
The sloth will continue to struggle to find a mate.

LANGUAGES

GERMAN EXCHANGE VISIT

Sarah King
Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages

In the last week of the spring term, we welcomed students from our partner school, Gymnasium Rutesheim, as part of the Kew House German Exchange. Students were paired up in January and had been messaging each other prior to the arrival of the German party on Saturday 16th March. During the week, German students joined their partners in morning lessons and went on trips to London in the afternoons. On Wednesday, they spent the day at Hampton Court. On the last evening, all students went to Franco Manca for pizza to round off a very successful week! KHS students are already looking forward to the return trip to Germany in June!

"The coolest thing was getting to know people. Not only the English but also the Germans on the trip who we didn't know beforehand. Experiencing family life and English school was fantastic! It was fascinating to see everyone in school uniform!"

Quotes from Nele F & Anna R
(Y9 Klasse, Gymnasium Rutesheim)

"We have had such a fun week. We have spoken German with our partners and already gained an insight into German culture and way of life. We enjoyed our lessons more than usual having our partners with us! "

Quotes from Shio Y & Emily A (Y9, KHS)

Y9 BFI FILM STUDY DAY

Sarah King
Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages

Y9 KHS German students visited the BFI on London's South Bank and took part in a KS4 Film Study Day. The morning workshop focused on looking at themes and filming techniques using a range of clips from short films. In the afternoon, we were treated to a full-length feature film called Berlin 36 which was very interesting and thought-provoking. All of the students worked hard and really enjoyed the opportunity to spend time learning German out of the classroom in a completely different setting.

AUTHOR VISIT

Perrine Vessayre
Head of Modern Foreign Languages

On March 12th, Mark Pallis, a renowned author of multilingual children's books, UNICEF worker, and Ambassador for the 'Speak to the Future' school campaign, visited our Year 8 students to emphasise the significance of language acquisition. He introduced his bilingual book titled "The Fabulous Lost & Found," which imparts 50 French (and Spanish) words. Mark elaborated on how language learning can reshape the brain and referenced research from Cambridge University indicating its potential to enhance creativity, communication skills, and concentration.

Y8 NORMANDY TRIP

Ellie Marden
Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages

Forty Year 8 pupils visited France (4-7th March) where they experienced French culture, cuisine and language whilst staying at a beautiful château in the picturesque Normandy countryside.

Day 1: The ferry from Dover to Calais was an exciting experience and many pupils enjoyed taking the air on deck. Once in France, we visited the picturesque French port of Honfleur and did a little local shopping including some rather impressive chocolate shops. We arrived at the château in the evening and got settled in, sampling the games room and the extensive grounds.

Day 2: Undaunted by the Normandy rain, we visited the fabulous caramel factory at Isigny and learnt all about the Norman cow, watched large slabs of caramel poured out and moulded onto a machine which then spat them out at a rate of 400 caramels per minute! Of course, sampling the sweets was the best part of all! After the factory, we travelled to Bayeux to see the cathedral, the shops and the famous tapestry and to learn about the Norman conquest in 1066. Upon returning to the château we took part in an 'egg protector' activity in teams. Each group was provided with a real egg, and some packaging in order to wrap the egg as securely as possible.
The teams then had fun trying to hit, kick and pass around their opponents' wrapped eggs. Only two eggs survived the whole journey in the end! The evening saw students and staff alike trying frogs' legs and snails before dinner and we finished off the day with a quick burst of karaoke.

Day 3: The rain finally stopped, and we visited a market in Bayeux for our team activity. Each team was given 20 euros and then we used our French to converse with the market stall holders in order to buy ingredients to make a beautiful and delicious lunch back at the château. The highlight of the trip was our visit to Mont Saint Michel in the afternoon, a magical tidal island topped by a gravity-defying abbey. The sun stayed out all afternoon and the view across the vast sand flats with moody clouds was breathtaking. Crêpe and 'cider' night was appreciated by all and then we let off some steam at the disco dancing to all the classics.
Day 4: Our final day was here, and we went to a French hypermarket to get our last gifts and mementos of the trip as well as a few hastily bought mothers' day gifts! The ferry back was smooth sailing, and everyone relaxed a bit before the final leg of the journey, arriving tired but happy back to school late evening.

"WHAT AN ENJOYABLE EXPERIENCE! I LOVED LEARNING TO SPEAK MORE FRENCH AND ABOUT THE BAYEUX TAPESTRY. I CAN DEMANDER SI JE PEUX AVOIR LE JAMBON NOW! WHAT A VIEW FROM THE HEIGHTS OF MONT ST MICHEL!"

LEE R

"MY FAVOURITE THING ABOUT THE NORMANDY TRIP WAS EATING SNAILS AND FROGS' LEGS BECAUSE IT WAS A BIT OUT OF MY COMFORT ZONE BUT TASTED GREAT! UNA G"

THOMAS H

"ON THE NORMANDY TRIP, I ENJOYED THE BAYEUX TAPESTRY AS IT WAS EXCEPTIONALLY LONG AND HAD LOTS OF INTERESTING SCENES WOVEN INTO IT. I ALSO ENJOYED GOING TO THE CARAMEL FACTORY AS IT WAS INTERESTING TO SEE HOW THE CARAMEL WAS MADE AND THEN TO SEE IT BEING MADE RIGHT THERE IN THE FACTORY."

WILLIAM W

" I ENJOYED VISITING MONT SAINT MICHEL BECAUSE OF THE BEAUTIFUL ARCHITECTURE AND THE SPECTACULAR VIEWS. "

FREDDO Y

KEW HOUSE ASSEMBLIES

Martyn Hale
Assistant Head Teacher – Key Stage 3: Head of Humanities

Here at Kew House, we have a busy programme of assemblies and activities during the tutor programme. This term, the students have had assemblies focused on Holocaust Memorial Day, LGBT History Month, Science and Engineering Week, Careers and World Book Day. These assemblies are an important part of the school week where students can reflect on world issues, consider their own thoughts and behaviours and have the opportunity to listen to other students and outside speakers.

Each week the tutors access the personal tutor programme, a flexible programme to discuss what has been raised in assembly or indeed other issues. The whole point in the vertical tutor system is to engage with students from other years, learn from them and to consider the opinions of others.

BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

Mr Jean-Charles Lafaury
Head of Economics and Business

The 18 Sixth Formers who took part in the Tycoon Enterprise national competition have now completed the trading part of the competition. Having learnt to write a business plan, manage stock and relationships with suppliers, promote their products and services, as well as complete a set of accounts, Mr Marechal and Mr Lafaury were delighted that all 3 teams (PCFixPro, Rings, Build-a-Band) had managed to make a profit. We are now waiting to find out if any of the teams have been selected for the final event which will be hosted by Peter Jones from Dragons' Den. Our young entrepreneurs recently attended the Year 11 assembly to share their experiences and present their businesses with a view to persuade our future Year 12 students to take part next year.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH TRAINING

Mel Cassini
Head of Chemistry | DofE Coordinator

Year 9 students travelled to Richmond Park earlier this term for a training day for their upcoming Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition. They were taught how to navigate with a compass and an OS map, given tips on how to plan their meals and pack their rucksacks for the camping expedition next month. We wish them the best of luck for their qualifying expedition!

Students mastered the art of proper rucksack packing for their upcoming trek.

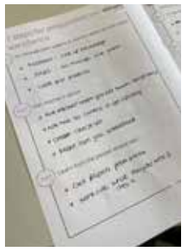
Students gained essential skills in camping stove assembly and safe cooking.

students learning the basics of first aid

ELEVATE EDUCATION
STUDY SKILLS

Ms Kate Rice
Head of IS & GA Co-ordinator

This term, Year 11 and Year 13 students participated in Elevate Education's customised study skills sessions. Throughout these sessions, students were guided on elevating their study preparation to the next level. They were provided with indispensable tools to navigate the intricacies of exam preparation, encompassing mastering time management, refining revision strategies, and learning effective techniques. The sessions proved to be immensely beneficial, and we wish our students all the very best as they prepare for their exams over the Easter break.



GEOGRAPHY SOCIETY
SPEAKER SERIES

Fran Harper Y12
President of the Geography Society

Jessica Savage was the second speaker at the Kew House School Geography Society. She spoke to students and teachers regarding how she saves paradise from plastics. Presenting her work on filter feeding megafauna in the central Indian Ocean, she showed us how plastics end up where they do. Jess explored the opportunities for future jobs, by showing us her journey from her A-levels to her PhD, that she is completing now. She highlighted how we can help the movement by becoming more aware of the microplastics we use in everyday society, and how to cut down this usage. She inspired the attendees to take more care in the plastics they used and showed them how different organisations can make a difference.

Fran Harper Y12, President of the Geography Society

YEAR 12 CAREER TRIP TO OXFORD UNIVERSITY
STUDY SKILLS

Words by Freya F in Year 12

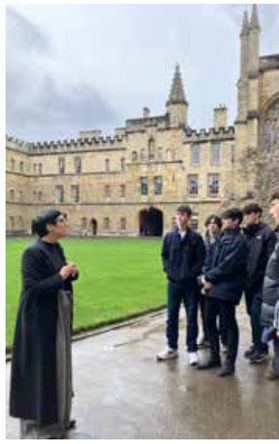
On 29th February, we visited one of the most prestigious educational institutions in the world - Oxford University!

Once we arrived in Oxford, we saw the Radcliffe Camera (Rad Cam). Fun fact, 'camera' in Latin means 'room' so essentially the building is called a 'red room'. Our first stop was St Catherine's College or, in Oxford slang, St Catz, where we were welcomed with a warm drink and biscuits. We were hosted by Ruari, an Admissions Officer, who gave us an introduction to Oxford University and how its admissions process works. What surprised me the most was the wide range of courses they offer from Archaeology and Anthropology to Religion and Asian Middle East Studies.

We then had a tour of the college which, despite the rain, was enjoyable as it's a very modern college compared to the older, more traditional colleges. After that, we participated in a Personal Statement Workshop. Personally, this was the highlight of the day as he taught us about the importance of super-curriculars and showed us 'bad' examples of personal statements which was an effective approach as opposed to giving us a good model, as this helped us recognise how to improve.

After lunch, we went on a visit to New College, which really is a misnomer, as it was founded in 1379 and so it's one of the oldest colleges. My favourite part was seeing the New College cloisters and courtyard which the Harry Potter production team used to film scenes for Hogwarts. We also visited the garden, Chapel and Hall (which is the oldest dining hall in both Oxford and Cambridge combined)

Overall, our trip to Oxford University was more than just a visit - it was a great learning opportunity as I'm sure that we all learned one new thing that will help us with our university applications in Autumn!



MATHS

INTERMEDIATE MATHS CHALLENGE

WE OFFER A RANGE OF WEEKLY MATHS CLUBS, COME JOIN IN!

This term, over 60 students from across Years 9, 10 and 11 took part in the annual Intermediate Maths Challenge, organised by the UK Maths Trust. Completing 25 multiple-choice questions under a strict 60-minute time limit, using only logical thinking and mental arithmetic skills, our students once again achieved outstanding results.

32 students achieved a bronze medal, 5 students gained silver and 7 students scored enough points for a gold medal! Out of the 7 gold medallists, four of them scored high enough to be invited for the next round of the competition (the Pink Kangaroo). We look forward to reporting more wonderful results next term from the Junior Maths Challenge (Years 7 and 8).

INVITED TO NEXT ROUND (4)

Harry	H
Nolan	M
Harry	U
Gabriela	A-A

INTERMEDIATE MATHS CHALLENGE (UK MATHS TRUST)

Gold (7)

Harry	H	99
Nolan	M	97
Harry	U	88
Gabriela	A-A	85
Finn	H	81
George	J	80
Alice	B	77

Silver (5)

Marielena	P	66
Frederick	W	66
Henry	A	66
Elissar	D	65
Daniel	O-C	61

Bronze (32)

Nicolas	H	60
Rhys	M	59
Alexander	H	58
Charlie	G	57
Oscar	H	57
Edward	L	57
Isis	T	57
Paloma	J	57
Anastasia	M	57
Nathan	K	56
Lauryn	M	56
William	M	56
Marc	P	55
Leo	T	54
Aaryan	S	54
Arthur	P	53
Pablo	J	52
Jack	P	52
Oliver	O	51
Conrad	W	51
James	G	51
Zachary	M	50
George	A	50
Livia	C	49
Radu	C	49
George	H-K	49
Shriyans	S	49
Harry	A	49
Jesse	S	49
Raphael	B	48
Lin	S	47
Ray	S	47

AMSP MATHS FEAST COMPETITION

A group of four students were selected to represent Kew House in the local round of the Year 10 Maths Feast team competition, organised by the Advanced Mathematics Support Programme. The students completed four rounds of different maths-related activities, including a quiz round, a cross-number round, a logic puzzle round and a modular origami round. They competed against 22 teams from other local schools in West London, and achieved an impressive 64% overall score. Well done to Team Kew House: Francesca, Harry, Rui and Marielena!

MATHS CLUBS

WE OFFER A RANGE OF WEEKLY MATHS CLUBS, COME JOIN IN!

KS3
Y7 and Y8: Homework club in HS1 on Wednesdays, 1.30 – 2 pm.
Y7 and Y8: Interventions on Wednesdays, 4-5 pm.

KS4
Year 11 interventions on Mondays and Fridays, 7.45am – 8 30am
Year 9 and 10 interventions on Thursdays, 7.45am – 8.30am

KS5
Y12 and Y13 homework club and interventions on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4-5pm.

Also: There is a weekly maths competition for the KS3 students, run by Mrs Aslam, certificates if you win!

Y11 Gifted and Talented: GCSE Further Maths and Additional Maths in the summer (speak to Mrs Aslam for further details).

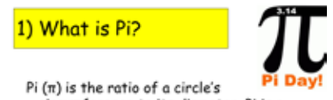
Y7 and Y8: Start getting ready for the UKMT Junior Maths challenge on the 25th of April 2024!

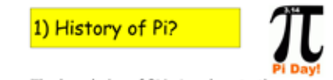
CELEBRATING PI DAY: 3.14

Students were invited to celebrate Pi day with a competition, memorising and reciting as many digits possible from Pi. We were impressed with the number of participants eager to demonstrate their ability to memorise and recite lengthy numerical sequences! Leading the way was Nolan M, who expertly recited an astounding 256 digits without a single mistake! Another standout performer was Edward, who managed 150 digits during a practice session the day prior, despite being absent from the competition itself. It was also a delight witnessing the enthusiasm and determination displayed by our younger participants. "Some of the students tried to memorise the digits just before lunch, succeeding in reciting up to 50 digits. The mere fact they gave it a go was truly amazing" said Mrs Aslam.

So how did Nolan memorise so many digits? "I started practicing a week before the competition, I learned around 40 digits a day with 20-30 minutes practice time. I enjoy doing maths in my free time and thought it would be fun to memorise lots of Pi.

My favourite subject in maths would have to be Calculus. It is interesting because of how it brings together so many different mathematical concepts, and it is also very enjoyable to learn about. The competition was organized by Mrs Aslam and it happened on the 14th of March – Pi day. Maths is my favourite subject in school followed by computing."





Winner Nolan memorised and recited 256 digits from Pi!

CELEBRATING SUCCESS AT KHS

CELEBRATING SUCCESS AT KHS

KEW HOUSE CELEBRATES STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS ACROSS DISCIPLINES!

Earlier this term, we proudly celebrated the impressive accomplishments of our students in a diverse range of fields. Among the standout highlights was the inspiring news that Alex has secured his place at Oxford University, embarking on the next chapter of his academic journey. This prestigious placement is a testament to Alex's unwavering dedication and intellectual prowess.

In another exciting development, students Eli and Freddie, members of the band Askew, were invited to perform at the renowned South by Southwest (SXSW) festival in Texas this past March. This opportunity to showcase their musical talents on a global stage is a remarkable achievement, reflecting the exceptional skill and hard work of the young artists, well done!

BBC Click went to the SXSW festival and followed Eli's story, you can watch it here:

LIBRARY

BOOK CLUB BOOKS

KS3 - Skandar and The Unicorn Thief - A.F. Steadman
KS4 – Scythe - Neal Shusterman

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

This has been a very busy and exciting term for the library with a plethora of events throughout the spring term.

ROSS WELFORD
AUTHOR VISIT

On Wednesday the 24th of January, year 7 and year 8 were treated to a special talk from a guest speaker: Ross Wellford! At 9 o'clock, I introduced the author to year 7s and he started with a performance of some magic tricks! I liked the one where he made a glass of water float above someone's head. He also told us about how to structure stories in a way that makes sense, enticing the reader and how to keep them entertained whilst also making it fun for us to write!

During the year 8 talk, he also performed magic tricks such as cutting a rope in two and then somehow putting it back together seamlessly. He also helped us construct a strong story with fun characters that we got to choose! Finally, he left us with an inspirational quote from Harry Potter and it was then time for the workshop.

In the workshop, the author taught us about enticing the reader and helped us to write our very own stories with prompts such as photos and sentence starters. In the end, we read out our creations and learned a lot about story writing and telling. Overall, it was a wonderful day, everyone learnt a lot and had fun.

Isaac Z. Year 8

SPEED READ

On Thursday the 8th February, a group of pupils attended the Hounslow Speed Read. Pupils had to promote a book they enjoyed reading and try to convince peers from other schools to read it. Emily U. won second place in group 2 with her chosen book 'One' by Sarah Crossan. Congratulations Emily!

KATYA BALEN
AUTHOR VISIT

On Monday the 4th March, the author of the Yoto Carnegie Medal award winner, Katya Balen, came in for a writing workshop with a small group of 7 and 8 pupils to celebrate World Book Day. Katya spoke about her inspiration for writing and shared different writing techniques she uses when writing her books. Pupils were then able to try out some of these different ideas to start writing their own stories.

TEEN READ FINALE

On Thursday 14th March, 10 pupils travelled to The Green School for Boys to celebrate their 4 months of reading. Pupils had the opportunity to listen to Pam Smy, author and illustrator of the winning book of Teen Read 2023. Pam shared her process of illustrating her books and shared snapshots of sketches that inspired her stories. Pupils asked engaging questions about colour choice and specific imagery in the text. After, the Hounslow Librarian's group announced the winning book of Hounslow Teen Read 2024.

1st Place
Happy Head - Josh Silver
2nd Place
A Dark Inheritance - H.F. Askwith
3rd Place
Tyger - SF Said

Kew House participants would have picked similar results except for 3rd place going to Girl Who Broke the Sea by A. Connors. Overall, the group was very happy with the results and enjoyed having the opportunity to read books outside of their go-to genre.

Thank you to everyone who has taken part and helped with all the different events.

Mrs. Tricia Burt
Librarian

EDUCATION TRANSFORMED

DEPUTY HEAD OF KEW HOUSE SCHOOL REFLECTS ON A PROFOUND SHIFT OF PERSPECTIVE THAT COMES WITH MOVING FROM STATE TO INDEPENDENT SECTOR

Moving from the state to independent sector is not just a change in educational institutions, it's a transformative journey that reshapes perspectives. As someone who recently navigated this transition, and now contributes to the academic leadership of Kew House School, it is something I've experienced for myself. This has led me to reflect on the profound opportunities presented, not just for me but for all the students who embark on their educational journey here at Kew House.

Many of us recognise and have experienced, a siloed approach in education settings – where the focus is on examinations and 'teaching to the test' becomes relentless. We also know that making space for a more interconnected and less prescriptive approach pays dividends. Here at Kew House, the recently introduced Gardener Award is already doing just that. It is more than a framework, encapsulating a commitment to wider and deeper learning. Here, subjects are not isolated entities, but threads woven into a rich tapestry of knowledge, skills and experiences. All our students encounter themes such as enterprise, perspectives, wellbeing, community, and creativity across disciplines. It is a philosophy that emerged within the Gardener Schools Group from the recognition that true education extends beyond subject knowledge. It needs to provide students with a preparation for the complexities – and opportunities – of life.

In many educational settings creative subjects get sidelined. Again, a different perspective exists, and at Kew House, I have seen firsthand the transformative power of embracing arts, music, drama and design as integral components of the curriculum. This is not at the expense of the more traditional STEM subjects (and I speak as a maths teacher by training). Our students experience a balanced education that values the sciences and humanities in equal measure and seeks to furnish students with a diverse skillset.

"OUR STUDENTS EXPERIENCE A BALANCED EDUCATION THAT VALUES THE SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES IN EQUAL MEASURE"

Education is not just about exam results – even though we know their importance – but is a complex process of guiding students through growing up and navigating some of their most challenging years. This recognition is embedded in our ethos at Kew House, with individualised attention delivered pastorally as well as academically. Building confidence and self-esteem is critical for young people's wellbeing – and this also supports better academic achievement.

As I reflect on my own educational journey and my new role helping to shape the academic landscape at Kew House School, one takeaway is clear. Education is ultimately about guiding and supporting young people in becoming individuals able to see the interconnectedness of the subjects they study, find their own academic strengths, and achieve in whatever pathways they choose.

The move from state to independent education was not just a change in scenery for me; it was a catalyst for a profound shift in perspective. I am privileged to contribute to an educational setting that reflects my personal ethos – one that goes beyond textbooks and exams to focus on developing confident and creative individuals ready to shape their future.

Louisa Hopkinson
Deputy Head (Academic)

GARDENER SCHOOLS GROUP

KEW GREEN preparatory school

KEWHOUSE SCHOOL

MAIDA VALE SCHOOL

RAVENSCOURT PARK preparatory school

The Gardener Schools Group, one family, four schools, one vision