

KING
EDWARD'S
SCHOOL
BATH

SPRING 2024

KESlife

THE SCHOOL FOR ADVENTUROUS MINDS



Welcome



Welcome to the 2024 edition of *KESlife*, which positively fizzes with vibrancy, energy and a sense of adventure! From horizon broadening trips at home and abroad to sporting, artistic, creative and dramatic endeavour, staff and pupils of all ages have enjoyed a very rich and action-packed academic year so far.

This year's magazine also celebrates some wonderful, collaborative enterprise, as well as a fantastic focus on charitable and philanthropic engagement and an ambitious drive towards an ever more sustainable future for our School.

There has been impressive success already in the debating chamber, in the Science labs and Maths classrooms, under the musical spotlight and on the sports field, along with another very welcome academic accolade in the recent *Sunday Times Parent Power Guide*, which ranked KES as the second highest performing independent school in the south west for the second year running.

As I write, our brand new, state of the art gym is about to open in the Rutherford Sports Hall. With a much talked about picture window offering inspiring views from North Road across the World Heritage city of Bath, this outstanding new facility may well offer a space for quiet contemplation as well as for athletic training, fitness work and muscle building!

As with so many other developments at KES in recent years, the new gym reflects how the School aims to have an eye to the future, always looking to enhance the educational experience for pupils and staff alike. With our new Head of the Junior School, Mr Sean Price, also picking up the reins at the start of January, 2024 is already shaping up to be a year of exciting change and new opportunities, and I certainly hope that it is a very special and very rewarding year for you and your families. As always, thank you for your support, and I hope that you enjoy reading *KESlife*.



Martin J Boden
HEADMASTER



Clockwise from the top: Staff and pupils ahead of the whole school charity Elf Run; Pre-Prep children prepare for their Harvest Festival assembly; the interior of the new Rutherford Sports Hall gym; the new Head of the Junior School, Sean Price meets pupils.

A trip of a lifetime!

Having spent a great deal of time in Kenya in recent years, I was hugely excited to be able to take a large group of pupils from KES to show them the highlights of the country and to introduce them to some very special people. Moving Mountains Trust has worked in Embu for a long time, building relationships with locals and supporting young people through their education. To be able to introduce our pupils to these exceptional people and to see the bonds they formed was a very special experience. Alongside a mountain expedition, wild camping in a national park, feeding a giraffe and stroking a rhino, it truly was an unforgettable experience for all of us!

Miss L Perris TRIP CO-ORDINATOR



@KESBathCharity

At the end of the Summer Term, 42 KES pupils and staff set off to Nairobi, Kenya, for a three-week trip of a lifetime.

Upon our arrival in Embu, we were welcomed by a team of beneficiaries from the Moving Mountains Trust, as well as staff from Adventure Alternative. Whilst there, we helped lay a new concrete path to classrooms in Gatwe Primary School, met the children and then taught them lessons! Additionally, we also visited Saint Monica's School that supports children with special needs, where we re-painted classrooms and had a tour. Following our work with the schools, we were driven to the Trust's rescue centre in Embu, where we met Lillian, who works in the kitchen and cooks for up to 250 people a day! Here we were introduced to the 'Black Cats', a football team of boys trained and supported by the charity. We played an exciting game of football with them and presented them with new shirts and football boots!

All too soon it was time to leave Embu and get ready to climb Mt Kenya! Led by Cyrus, our guide, we set off bright

and early the next day, ascending through a forest, a cloudy vertical bog, across an endless rocky terrain, until at last the snowy peaks came into view. On our acclimatisation day we visited a beautiful turquoise lake (a fantastic photo opportunity!), before it was time to tackle the summit.

Setting off under the crystal-clear, starry sky at 1.20am, wrapped up and torches at the ready, we set off towards the black, craggy peaks. After an endless uphill climb, we finally reached the tiny flag, signalling that we were 4,985m above sea level, the summit of Point Lenana! Bathed in the orange glow of the sunrise, the clouds looked like waves beneath us, and the surrounding rocky scenery was breathtaking.

The end of our trip flew by after that. We headed to OI Pejeta for a safari, where we also went to a chimpanzee rewilding centre and saw the last two female Northern White rhinos on the earth. The next day, we moved to our final camp next to Lake Naivasha, where we took a boat trip across the lake to Elsamere (Joy and George Adamson's house, as described in the

book and film, *Born Free*), where we had a delicious afternoon tea and learnt about their incredible lives and conservation efforts. Aside from relaxing by the pool and enjoying the restaurant, we also cycled through Hell's Gate National Park to the thinnest part of the Earth's crust! We stopped off at the Equator and got plenty of chances to sharpen up our haggling skills at the various markets we visited and buy some amazing souvenirs to take home!

A big thank you to all the staff who helped to make this trip happen, including Gavin Bates, founder of Moving Mountains Trust, and Gilbert Njeru, chairperson of the organisation. I feel so privileged to have had this incredible opportunity, and to experience a world much unlike my own.

Tallulah Gardner-Vela YEAR 12





Senior Maths Challenge and Maths Olympiad for Girls

In October, 129 of our KES mathematicians from Years 11-13 took part in the Senior Maths Challenge alongside thousands of keen and very capable mathematicians from across the country.

It was great to see that 67% of our entries gained certificates, which turns out to be the same proportion as last year, to the nearest percent!

Congratulations to the 50 pupils who gained a bronze certificate, the 28 pupils who were awarded a silver certificate and to the eight pupils who achieved the coveted gold award certificate: Owen Williams, Jonas Mak, Olivia Sheng, Luc Hocknell, Hannah Blacker, Alex Lake, Edward Blackwall and Megan Power.

A special mention must go to Owen, who achieved the impressive score of 99 and was awarded the trophy for 'best result in the entire school'.

A few weeks before the Senior Maths Challenge took place, Year 12 pupils, Megan Power and Charlotte Lang, also took part in the 2.5 hour long Maths Olympiad for Girls. With relatively little time to prepare, both girls did brilliantly, being awarded certificates of distinction, which is the highest accolade possible in this competition.

■ Mr R Pagnamenta HEAD OF MATHS

✕ @KESBathMaths

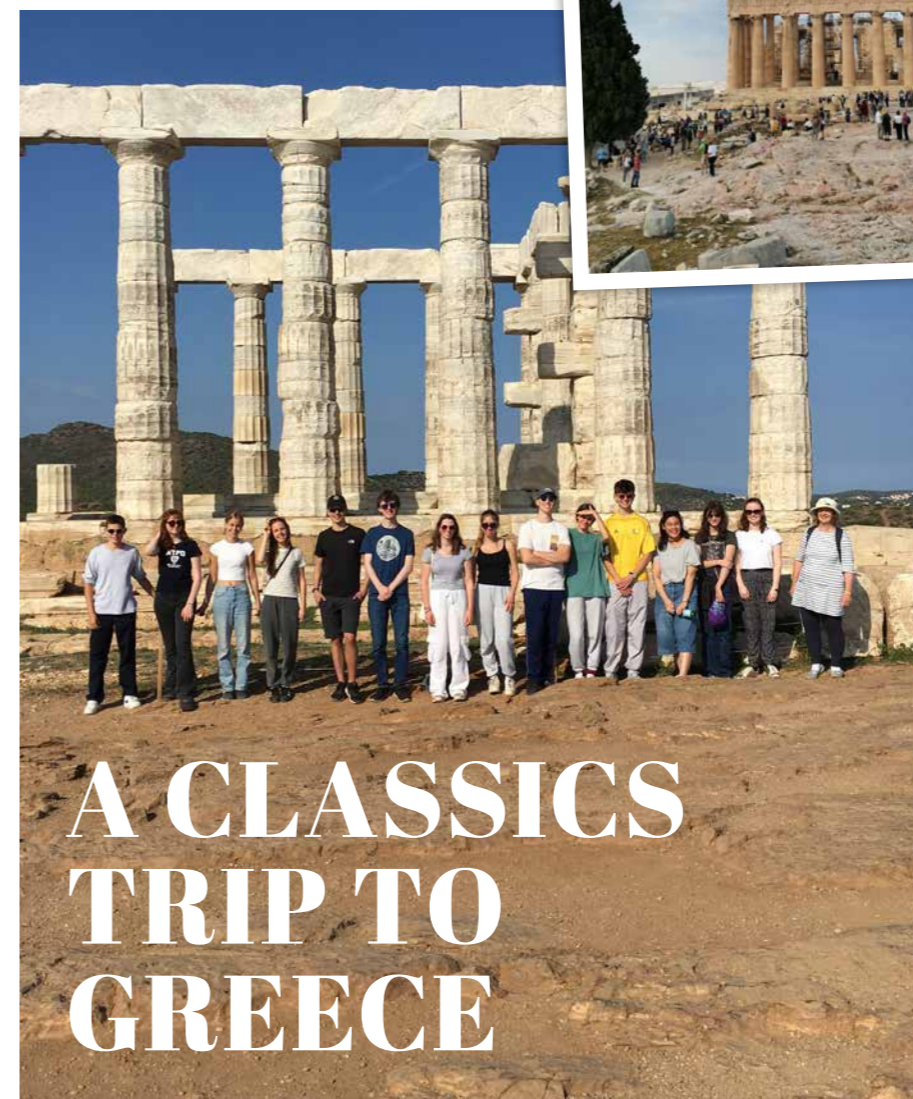


Year 13 History trip to Portsmouth historic dockyard

To complement their study of how Britain's empire grew, the Year 13 historians visited Portsmouth Dockyard to bring to life the evolution of the navy's role as well as the advancement of technology.

The jewel in the crown was, of course, stepping aboard HMS *Victory* – a truly majestic projection of imperial power. One pupil, Beau Holland, had a direct ancestor, Rear Admiral John Pasco, who served aboard *Victory* at Trafalgar – a fact that had the on-board curators very excited!

■ Mr P Ford
HEAD OF HISTORY AND POLITICS



During the October half-term, 14 pupils and two teachers embarked on the first Senior Classics Trip since 2018. First up was a nice entry level site, an amuse-bouche if you will, as the group visited the theatre at Thorikos with its unique rectangular-shaped orchestra. Then it was off to Cape Sounion, where we enjoyed stunning views of the Aegean, searched for Lord Byron's graffiti and discovered some over-protective partridge guarding the temple of Poseidon.



On the second day we started by visiting the Acropolis and the Theatre of Dionysus. Mr Feeney particularly enjoyed our phone call back in England, where he was able to compare the relative architectural merits of the Parthenon and the Willett Hall! Jonty Manners-Bell gave an excellent talk to the group about the Parthenon, before we made our way down through the Propylaea gateway to the Agora. In the Agora we marvelled at the majestic Temple of Hephaestus and enjoyed the museum, where we found two statues depicting personifications of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*, followed by a visit to the New Acropolis Museum to study some of the artefacts in more detail.

The next leg of our trip was in Delphi, with its stunning views over the valley. We enjoyed walking up the sacred way, finding the omphalos stone (which marks the centre of the world), discussing the consultation process of the oracle, before finishing the site with the theatre and athletics track. However, the excitement of the Greek Art pupils was palpable, and you could



smell the anticipation in the air as they chomped at the bit to get into the museum and see Cleobis and Biton, as well as the statue of the Delphic Charioteer. They were not disappointed, and Bethan Cheshire was particularly delighted to see the inscriptions of the Delphic Hymns, the earliest surviving example of notated music from the western world. From Delphi we travelled to a new stop on our tour, the award-winning museum at Thebes.

The penultimate day of our tour took us to the Peloponnese and first up was the site of Mycenae. We marvelled at the Lion Gate and the Cyclopean walls. Next was the Palamidi fortress in the Venetian town of Nauplion, where we got horribly lost trying to find the exit, bumped into a tortoise and then tested the resilience of our knees by walking down the 913 steps to the town centre. After lunch it was off to one of the most stunning Classical sites in the world, the theatre at Epidavros.

The final day began with a visit to the Mycenaean fortress of Tiryns before arriving at the last major archaeological site of Corinth. The site was packed with religious tour groups, eager to follow in the footsteps of St Paul. Our final stop was at the National Archaeological Museum in Athens, where the pupils had a chance to put all of the cultural sites and artefacts into context.

My huge thanks goes to Dr Gruzeliel for all of her help and support on the trip, and to the pupils for being such great company.

■ Mr M Bull HEAD OF CLASSICS

✕ @KESBathClassics

Rivers, beaches and glacial landforms

Year 13 Biologists headed to Dorset to develop their understanding of a number of different sampling techniques. These included kick-sampling in the River Piddle, randomly sampling limpets and systematically sampling dogwhelks in Kimmeridge Bay and stratified sampling on a sand dune in Studland. The trip culminated with the pupils planning and carrying out their own practicals in the field of Ecology.

■ Miss P Kirby HEAD OF BIOLOGY



Meanwhile, Year 11 Geographers visited Eryri National Park (Snowdonia) for their GCSE fieldwork. Here they studied the River Conwy and looked at landforms from the source to the mouth, as well as collecting data that allowed them to compare two different rivers. The trip ended with a visit to Cwm Idwal to revise glacial landforms and processes.

■ Dr J Knight HEAD OF GEOGRAPHY

✕ @KESBathGeog

The importance of Philanthropy

I recently started at KES as Development Director, my focus being to secure support for the School through philanthropic donations from the KES community. Donations create life changing opportunities for the children and young people in our School and have an immediate impact.

A wonderful example of this is the Gilligan Family Travel Award, set up in 2017 by Old Edwardians Philip and Jonathan Gilligan. The award commemorates their late mother, Joan Gilligan, a long-standing teacher at KES, their father, Bill, who led fundraising initiatives at the School, and their late brother, Simon who was also an OE. Thanks to the award, nine pupils have received grants to take part in



"I learned so much during my time in Rio, not just linguistically, but also culturally through interactions with my host and speaking with my teacher at my language school. It was also very interesting to be able to live with a local and see a completely foreign country in the same way the diverse, ever-smiling Brazilians do."

Finlay Porter YEAR 12

some very exciting and adventurous educational trips, broadening their cultural understanding of the places they visited and instilling in them lifelong skills such as problem solving and making connections. Finlay Porter, one of the recipients last year, travelled to Rio de Janeiro to study Portuguese.

Donations from current and former parents have contributed towards new facilities across our three sites, enabling the School to achieve its ambitious plans. Past donations in recent years have helped provide Teddy's Garden, an outdoor learning and creative space at the Pre-Prep and Nursery, the astroturf at the Junior School and high-spec Science Labs at the Senior School, as well as The Rose Drama Centre.

Furthermore, donations enable us to provide transformative bursaries for pupils in the Senior School, who otherwise would not be able to attend KES. Through the support of the KES community, we are proud that we can support nearly 1 in 5 pupils through our means-tested Bursary Programme – young people like Martin Mora Pancorbo, a recent leaver who is studying Biochemistry at the University of Bristol.

However, despite offering more means-tested bursary support than many other independent schools, each year some pupils are not able to take up the place they have been offered at KES, as we have insufficient funds to provide them with the level of bursary support they require.

The School's long-term vision is that our Bursary Programme will ultimately be able to provide the necessary financial support so that any pupil offered a place at the Senior School can attend, regardless of their family's financial

different courses, as well as future work ambitions, discussions proved invaluable to our Sixth Formers as they look to complete UCAS applications or decide on alternative pathways after school. Thank you to all the recent leavers who attended this event and made it so successful.

■ **Mr P Simonds** HEAD OF SIXTH FORM



"My experiences as a bursary-award holder have shaped my life as it is! Without the top-quality support I have received from KES academically, pastorally and within sport, I don't know what I'd be doing. The award allowed me to not be held back by finances but instead to access a high-level education."

Martin Mora Pancorbo OE

circumstances. The first step towards this vision is our Wroughton Bursary Fund campaign; our ambitious target is to raise £250,000 every year so that we can provide an additional 15 transformative bursaries to support young people in our community.

■ **Ms A Heyes** DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

If you would like to discuss making a donation, please contact Alison Heyes, Development Director, on **01225 464313** or email at a.hey@kesbath.com

in **KESBath**

The Wroughton Bursary Fund was established in 2023 in memory of Dr John Wroughton, former headmaster and passionate supporter of the KES Bursary Programme.

To donate to the Wroughton Bursary Fund, please scan the QR code.



■ **@KESBathOEs**

Old Edwardians offer insights beyond KES

At the beginning of the school year, over 20 recent OEs returned to the School to offer insights into life after KES to our Year 13 pupils. With conversations covering gap years, university destinations and

Green Careers and Ethics Convention

In November, we were very excited to host 14 amazing speakers from a range of different careers, all dealing with some aspect of Green and Ethical work.

This was intended to coincide with the launch of National Green Careers



Week earlier in the month. Our panellists included a medical ethicist, environmentalists, renewable energy leaders, an economist and an AI specialist, amongst others. Questions were posed by our Sixth Form pupils and Heads of Department and ranged from the political to the economic, and our panel members were all given the opportunity to answer these.

The discussion was free flowing, and many of our speakers were able to provide unique insights and viewpoints that differed from each other and really opened out the discussion for the Sixth Form. We were also pleased with many of the thoughtful questions that came from the audience, with our pupils displaying a particular interest in the



psychological and environmental aspects of the panellists' work.

We received very positive feedback from both the panellists and the pupils and we are looking forward to re-creating the event on an ongoing basis, with a subtly different focus each time.

■ **Mrs Rees-Roberts** CAREERS EDUCATION CO-ORDINATOR

■ **@KESBathCareers**



Aiming to be the greenest school in Bath

At the beginning of the Autumn Term, the School unveiled an enhanced sustainable food procurement and waste policy, which forms part of the wider School Sustainability Strategy.

This new sustainable vision of the School has seen pupils taking a leading role and working closely with members of the Senior Management and Estates and Facilities teams to establish an ambitious and all-encompassing sustainability plan for the future. Key initiatives have already been implemented, with the installation of solar panels on the Sports Hall and Wessex Building roof, which together generates approximately 35% of the electricity required on the North Road campus, and the commissioning of new electric Estates and Facilities vehicles.

As part of the wider strategy, working with our partner, MJ Church, the School is aiming, where possible, to ensure that all food waste is separated from other waste and composted. The School has already

dramatically reduced its plastic waste, removing the use of pre-packaged food products from the serveries and new new deli bar, with all single use plastic items such as takeaway knives and forks and individual yoghurt pots being replaced by reusable alternatives.

Elsewhere, new equipment in the kitchen, such as a new 20-rack combi oven, is helping to reduce energy consumption. A future ambition is to remove all use of gas in cooking and move to a sustainable electric source.

Year 13 pupil, Joe Johnson, an active member of the KES Sustainability Committee, said: "On behalf of the KES Sustainability Committee, I can say that these significant, tangible changes make us feel very hopeful and privileged to be at a school where pupil voice is taken seriously. This is only the beginning: the KES Green Evolution has begun!"

■ **Mr T Davies** BURSAR AND CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER



MOROCCO EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

In April last year, 21 Senior School pupils and three teachers went on an expedition to Morocco, visiting Marrakesh, its surrounding villages, the Berber communities in the High Atlas Mountains, the smaller city of Ouarzazate and parts of the Northern Sahara.

They had the most amazing few days and were welcomed into people's homes and communities. Sadly, following their trip the areas they visited were hit by a catastrophic earthquake. Understandably, the pupils were very moved by the disaster and wanted to do something to help.

The pupils designed posters and put them up all over the School and visited every form group to explain why they were raising money for the Morocco Earthquake Appeal. They organised and ran a hugely successful cake sale, which raised £1,066. In addition to this, all pupils were invited to wear something red, to raise awareness of the appeal and to stand in solidarity with the people of Morocco.

■ **Mrs B Lascelles** CHARITIES CO-ORDINATOR

■ **@KESBathCharity**



A WORLD OF CHOCOLATE!



After a long coach ride, we arrived at the much-anticipated Cadbury World in Birmingham for our Design and Technology fieldtrip. We disembarked and followed the staff into the main building, but not before taking a group photo under the huge, iconic Cadbury sign.

The first room we entered was a replica of an Aztec jungle, teaching us about the origin of the cocoa bean and the different items it was traded for. The next room showed how the Spanish conquistadors discovered cocoa beans during their conquest of the Aztec Empire, and then brought it back to Europe. They were the first to mix the cocoa bean with sugar in order to take away its bitter taste. Following this, we were transported back in time to a Victorian recreation of Bull Street. This is where John Cadbury opened his first shop, which sold teas, coffees and drinking chocolate.

@KESBathDT

We then entered two small screening rooms; one film introduced John Cadbury, his sons, George and Richard, and the different factories they opened to create their many products, whilst the second film showed how the cocoa bean is prepared and turned into chocolate using different machines.

Shortly afterwards, we entered the chocolate-handling room. Here we were able to write our names and draw pictures in melted chocolate and get involved with the tempering process. Finally, it was time to taste the chocolate – it was delicious!

We then went on the 'car ride', which took us through a fun and colourful tiny village inhabited by miniature chocolate egg people.

After lunch, we entered 'the Bournville experience', which showcased different packaging styles and a collection of Cadbury themed items. It was then time for a short talk about Cadbury, the history of its products, how they were made, the company's main rivals and the changes of ownership over time. To finish off the visit, we all enjoyed the brilliant 4D Chocolate Adventure, which was tremendous fun.

■ Gilbert Wilkes YEAR 8

Settling into Year 7 life

At the time of writing in early November, it was just seven-weeks ago that everything was brand new to us. Brand new people, brand new place, brand new routines, but now, having completed our first half term, we feel settled, happy and much more at home.

Both of us came from different small village primary schools and barely knew any people when we started. We were both so worried about whether we would be able to make new friends. However, we quickly came to realise that Year 7 is a nervous fresh start for everyone, even for those who already knew lots of people. We have found everyone to be open and friendly, which has made making new friends easy and something which we are not worried about any more.

Coming from a tiny school where you stayed in the same classroom all day (and shared it with the Year 5 pupils), we had imagined that classrooms would be almost impossible to find at KES. The building map filled us both with dread on the first day! However, one of the things that has surprised us most about the School is how easy it is to find a classroom once you know the pattern, which is very straightforward. In addition, if in doubt, you can always ask someone who looks bigger than you and they will likely be able to help. However, don't be fooled, as some of the Year 7 pupils are very tall!

Staying organised has been a bit of a challenge, but we feel like we are quickly getting used to this. We have found it's a good idea to have folders for each subject, as it makes it much easier to carry all your exercise books and texts books around. It also keeps them in good condition. Writing all your homework and notes in your planner has also helped us feel like we are keeping on top of everything. Another useful tip is to get everything you need ready for the next day, especially if you have sports. Finally, pack a snack at breaktime because you will get hungry!

On reflection, we have agreed that it's best not to get too stressed about remembering everything all the time. We have found that when mistakes have been made during these first weeks, the teachers have been very understanding.

In conclusion, starting a new school isn't easy, but it's not as hard as we thought it would be. Our top tips would be to keep a positive attitude, be open to meeting new people and try to stay organised!

■ Scarlett Winstanley & Tacita Burton
YEAR 7



@KESBathYear7

YEAR 7 HISTORY TRIP TO CHEPSTOW

The new Year 7 pupils enjoyed bringing their study of the Norman Conquest to life with a visit to Chepstow Castle in September.

As well as enjoying bonding with their new form-mates, pupils learnt about the evolution of defensive tactics across the 500-year operational history of the castle, got the chance to explore within, and were treated to a dazzling display of swordsmanship, which demonstrated the lethality of an apparently blunt great sword! Thank you to Ms Moon for organising this always enjoyable and illuminating excursion.

■ Mr P Ford HEAD OF HISTORY AND POLITICS



Making a splash!

In October, 12 girls and six boys from Year 7 attended a Year 7 Swimming Gala at Kingswood School.

Everyone swam their hardest and performed well in all their races, with some very close finishes. KES did particularly well in the breaststroke and fly races and demonstrated good teamwork in the medley and freestyle relays. The cheering from KES was consistently loud throughout, which really lifted team morale. Kingswood were admirable competitors and wonderful hosts.

■ Jacob Robinson & Felicity Hobbs YEAR 7

An unforgettable immersive experience

From historical landmarks to trying tapas, pupils from Year 10 and 11 truly did it all on the Spanish Immersion Trip to Malaga. With an action-packed itinerary and Spanish classes to attend, all 21 pupils developed and improved their Spanish beyond their expectations, learning a plethora of phrases and words that will prove invaluable in years to come.

The usual Monday feeling of "do I have to go to school?" was replaced by "bring on the Spanish classes", as lessons with specialist language teachers not only helped the pupils improve their Spanish, but also helped their confidence and ability to improvise when asked a question.

This was followed by a day trip to Córdoba on Tuesday, where we were able to learn about the origins and history of the city, including the mosque and cathedral that remain a central point of focus today.

As part of the visit, pupils attended the market to trial their best bartering



skills, whilst also finding a snack for the sandwich picnic. This was followed by a tour of the city wall that surrounds Málaga, encapsulating stunning views over the city and sea.

Beyond the hustle and bustle of the city centre, we were able to unwind with a game of rugby on the beach, danced flamenco and enjoy the very efficient public transport. Finally, the trip finished in style with a visit to a local Spanish school, where pupils were able to practise and hone the language skills they had learnt over the past few days, in what turned out to be a selection of "Spanglish" conversations, proving helpful to both sets of pupils, as friends were made and insights into the colloquial language were given.

All in all, it was an amazing trip!



■ Amelie Rushforth & Aidan O'Mahony YEAR 11

@KESBathSpanish

MUNKES in action



The School's Model United Nations Society (MUNKES) got off to a flying start at the start of the academic year, with our "Committee Room" of B25 being a hive of intellectual debate, discussion and confrontation for our in-house debates.

Representing countries from Afghanistan to Australia and North Korea to Norway, we held debates on 'How the UN should combat child marriage once and for all' and 'The UN's role in monitoring elections' in preparation for our first conference of the year held at

Queen's College, Taunton. This thrilling one-day conference in November included topics such as whether 'insulin should be free at the point of use' and the issue of 'worldwide nuclear disarmament'. It was a fascinating experience, discussing and arguing about significant world events which were unfolding around us.

We are looking forward to upcoming conferences at Bristol Grammar School in January and at Kingswood School in March.

■ Joseph Walker YEAR 12

The weeks of dedicated preparation demonstrated by our pupils for the MUN Conference at Queen's College, Taunton were not wasted, with our **USA delegation winning Best Delegation (first place) for the whole conference**, along with a host of individual awards for our other pupils:

Theodore Spaliviero-Shaw Year 13	Best Delegate in the Security Council committee (USA)
Grace Burn Year 13	Highly Commended in the Economics committee (USA)
Jacob Coutts Year 13	Highly Commended in the Politics committee (USA)
Jacob Cooper Year 12	Best Delegate in the Disarmament committee (North Korea)
Barnaby Frith Year 10	Commended Delegate in the Economics committee (North Korea)



POLITICS TRIP

THE REST IS POLITICS – LIVE!

A live version of Rory Stewart and Alastair Campbell's hit podcast was performed at the Forum in September and 22 A Level Politics pupils enjoyed a chance to see them live.

With their blend of personal anecdotes and commentary on political matters du jour as well as historic, the podcast is essential listening for success in the A Level course. Pupils are looking forward to the elections due to be held in the US and UK later this year, as well as our trip to Washington DC in March.

■ Mr P Ford HEAD OF HISTORY AND POLITICS

X @KESBathHistory

BATH STUDENT PARLIAMENT



Making a difference

In the Autumn, KES was delighted to host the second bi-termly meeting of the year for the Bath Student Parliament, where representatives from a range of Bath schools came together to discuss, share ideas and develop a vision for action on matters of priority for them.

The meeting covered a wide range of topics, including planning an inter-school debating competition during the Spring Term and a panel event for young people involving local MPs and Councillors ahead of an election in the spring. It was a really productive meeting and everyone went away feeling ready to work and to move things forward!

■ Grace Burn YEAR 13

Image credit: Royal Albert Hall - www.royalalberthall.com

A collaboration of art

The Art and Photography department was proud to collaborate with other secondary schools in Bath for the recent 'Young Bath Artists' exhibition at Burdall's Yard.

Showcasing over 80 pieces of art from 11 schools, the exhibition was a celebration of creativity and artistic talent in the city. Work on show was from GCSE and A Level pupils and ranged from drawing and printing to painting and mixed media. The show was opened by the Director of the Holburne Museum, Dr Chris Stephens, at a well-attended private view, with the work remaining on show for two weeks. All of the schools involved welcomed the opportunity to display their pupils' work to a wider public audience and are looking forward to more collaborative projects in the future.

■ Mr E Hume-Smith HEAD OF ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY



X @KESBathArtPhoto

Celebrating literary and artistic talent at KES

In a noisy world it is a rare pleasure to take an hour or so to be still, quiet and really listen, but every year this is what the launch of the Anthology provides for its guests.

Now in publication for over a decade, the *Anthology* has become a KES – and a Bath – institution, celebrating the incredible talent of our pupils, who never fail to produce writing that, quite simply, must be published.

Through the collaboration between the Art and Photography and English departments, the winning entries from our poetry, short story and journalism competitions' work are paired with our pupils' artwork to produce this unique publication celebrating the best of King Edward's creativity. This year's poetry and short story competitions took pupils in potentially antithetical directions, from 'The Environment'

to what is 'Buried' around or within us. The journalism competition, whose winning entries are published in the *Anthology* for the first time, invited pupils to enter works of non-fiction on their choice of topic.

For this year's launch event we returned to the School library, a fitting space to launch the publication of this unique volume. Over a dozen pupils read poems and extracts from their short stories, and Joseph Walker, ahead of a trip to Finland next year to gain a better understanding of their education system, read his winning piece of journalism: 'Should the UK adopt Finland's Education System?'

Luke Palmer, our short story judge, commented on the 'poise and craft' of entrants' work, how familiar genres were made 'fresh and new' and how the best pieces were 'truly transportive' and, as Editor, I've been struck by the



Learning from the best!

In September, The Rose drama studio was lit up with theatrical creativity as groups of GCSE and A Level pupils worked collaboratively in a physical workshop with Frantic Assembly.

Over the past 25 years, Frantic Assembly has developed into one of the UK's most successful and best-loved theatre companies. The workshop offered our pupils a unique insight into how a professional theatre company creates physical material, providing them with a bank of physical skills to take away and incorporate into their own multi-disciplined devising work. Pupils gained confidence and became empowered to be better at making theatre from a physical starting point. It was great to see so many of our pupils learning new skills, becoming confident in a creative space and being given the techniques to make bold and brave theatre.

■ Mrs D Tamblyn ACTING HEAD OF DRAMA



imagination, eloquence and originality of our pupils' writing and art work and the expert pairing of them by the *Anthology's* Art Editor, Head of Art and Photography, Mr Hume-Smith. It was therefore a real privilege to bring these accomplished writers and artists together for an evening which honoured the breadth of talent in our midst.

■ Miss Z Kayacan HEAD OF ENGLISH

X @KESBathEnglish

X @KESBathArtPhoto

Autumn charity bonanza

We have had a very exciting and busy start to the fundraising calendar this year. We kicked off in September with two Year 8 pupils taking part in **The Big Avon Paddle**. Together, **Drummond Lascelles** and **Tommy Mawer** braved the elements on the River Avon to paddle the 4.5 mile loop, raising an impressive **£460 for Dorothy House Hospice Care**.

As always, our popular cake sales were a resounding success. These cake-bake days were held in September, October and November, raising an impressive **£2,583 for charity** – that's a lot of cake consumed! The money was divided between the Morocco Earthquake Fund and our international charity, the Moving Mountains Trust. We are so very grateful to all the pupils, parents and helpers who make these events possible.

In November, KES staff took on the daring challenge of walking across hot coals to raise money for Dorothy House. They were led through a 1.5 hour preparation process before commencing the challenge of walking 10-12 feet across a bed of glowing hot coals barefoot. Supporters enthusiastically cheered from a safe distance, with their shoes and socks firmly on!

One chilly late November evening, more KES staff took part in a Glow Swim at Vobster Quay to raise money for our school charities. The water temperature was a mere 10°C!

The lead up to Christmas was an extremely busy time for the Charities Committee. First, we organised a whole school Elf Run, where 67 pupils and teachers donned their elf hats and merrily sprinted off on a sponsored 'festive' fun-run, raising **£406 for Dorothy House**. We didn't stop there... our busy team also organised a Salvation Army Collection, a 12 Days of Christmas Collection for Julian House, a Reverse Advent Calendar Collection, ran a charities stall at the KES Christmas Fair and dazzled all with our brightly coloured knitwear on Christmas Jumper Day to raise money for our school charities.

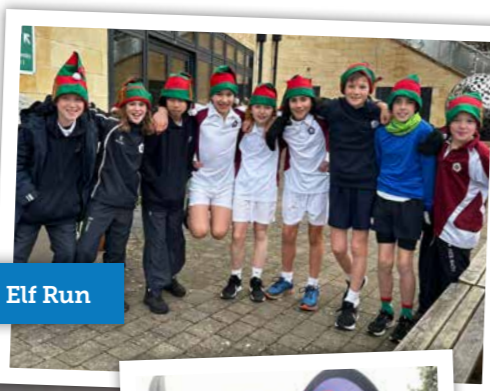
Thank you to everyone who has helped to organise events, participated in fundraising challenges, and most importantly, donated money to help support these amazing and vitally important charities.

■ Mrs B Lascelles

CHARITIES CO-ORDINATOR



£9,442.67
raised for
**Moving
Mountains
Trust**



Elf Run



The Big
Avon Paddle

Fire Walking

@KESBathCharity

Treasure Trove

“KES Drama serves up an unforgettable swashbuckling adventure.”

KES set sail for *Treasure Island* and discovered a golden hoard of dramatic booty!

This was a treasure of a show from a script adapted from the original Robert Louis Stevenson novel by Bryony Lavery for the National Theatre. The entire vessel was ably commanded by the indomitable team of Mrs Stevens-Craig and Mrs Bruton, who clearly worked incredibly hard as director to bring this exciting production to such a thrilling climax. All the usual classic KES Drama signatures were there: a stunning wooden set sturdy enough to get banged, whacked, tapped and stamped on by everyone with obvious glee; lighting that powerfully evoked the scenes from cosy pub to the vile isle; and, of course, superbly choreographed fight scenes and slow-mo action to ramp up the storytelling in this buccaneering adventure. A separate note needs to be made for Mr Mark Boden's swelling score that ran through the whole show, punctuated with haunting melodies and beautiful harmonies performed by a confident cast.

But, as always, the real stars of the show were the cast and crew who gave their all to create and give life to such a truly exciting yarn. The KES Drama tradition of multiple casting allowed Imogen Luker to bring the likeable energy of Jim Hawkins to perfect pitch, with Ava Shaw and Ariana Moayed

picking up the baton with equal enthusiasm, creating a trio of leading cabin girls who drove the narrative, ably connected with an emotional narrator from the future in Annabel Howlett's steady Jem Hawkins.

Luiza Britton confidently established the real captain of the landlubbers in her portrayal of Doctor Livesey, taken up with aplomb by Yvie Woods. Ned Holdsworth's joyously exuberant Squire Trelawney declared 'be damned with your fourth wall' with his first drawing aside, and Edie Bourne-Jones brought the character to hysterical heights in the final act. Jonty Manners-Bell perfectly set the tone as Long John Silver, with a sinister charisma that helped build great relationships with the other characters and to which Barnaby Saumarez Smith and Roman Bradford added their own swaggering villainy.

Among the ensemble of single-actor characters, several performances really stood out: Oscar Lowton's steady hand on the tiller as Captain Smollet and Neve Riley's utterly believable Grandma Hawkins; Violet Fitzwater Bowker's Red Ruth was a comic joy with emotional depth; Ollie Featherstone's Bill Bones was captivatingly tortured and Silas Collins' Blind Pugh was commandingly terrifying, while Joseph Walker was wholly unforgettable as the eminently forgettable Grey – indeed, many

of the stand-out, laugh-out-loud moments were his. Finally, perhaps the most impressive performance of the night, for me, was Lily Chapman's exhilarating characterisation of Ben Gunn. Part Caliban, part Gollum and all magnificent – she beautifully portrayed the destroyed remains of a haunted soul with humanity, depth and excellent comic timing to round out the character.

The rest of the actors can't be forgotten, but are perhaps too numerous to name here; suffice to say that this *Treasure Island* was crewed with tremendous energy, wit and verve, whether by the unseen technical hands who followed that spot perfectly, the charming ensemble of the patrons of the Benbow (chicken and all), the dastardly pirate crew, the lovely puppeteering and true animation of Captain Flint the Parrot, or the talented and flexible Crew Members who did so much to create the atmosphere and transport us on our journey to that vile isle!

Well done to all on such a magnificent production.

To read Mr Thomas' full review, please visit our website: www.kesbath.com

@KESBathDrama

KES SPORT

RUGBY HIGHLIGHTS

It was another successful Rugby season, with KES consistently fielding up to 14 teams from U12 to 1st XV. Our pupils benefited from a superb team of committed coaching staff who delivered high levels of support and consistently planned challenging and enjoyable sessions.

On an individual level, we can be extremely proud of many of our rugby players who are representing the School in the Bath Rugby Academy. There are currently 25 pupils in the pathway from U14 up to U18, and a special mention must go to Noah Murray and Frankie Foster, who are competing in league fixtures for the Bath Rugby U18 Academy Squad.

Both players and coaches are looking forward this term to the 7s season, where the U13s, U14s, U16s and Seniors will be taking part in the highly prestigious Rosslyn Park National Schools Sevens tournament in March, with a notable addition being an U16 Girls' team this year. The Seniors will also be travelling to Sedbergh in Cumbria to take part in the National Tens competition, which is always an incredible experience and opportunity to compete against some of the best schools in the country.

■ Mr S Lilley HEAD OF RUGBY



UNDER THE LIGHTS

This year, the 1st XV enjoyed their annual 'Night Lights' fixture against Monkton Combe School at Colerne RFC, the latter hosting the event fantastically well on a brisk November evening.

There was a wonderful atmosphere, with both teams playing an exciting brand of rugby. KES went behind early, but, with the help of a sea of KES supporters, the 1st XV battled through the elements and came out 34-12 victors. This was a wonderful sporting occasion which will no doubt live long in the memory for everyone who was involved in the event.



KES GIRLS' 1ST XI HOCKEY SQUAD TAKE DORSET BY STORM

In September, the Girls' 1st XI Hockey squad travelled to Sherborne Girls' School, for the Dorset Schools Invitational Tournament. Playing in blistering heat, KES faced their hosts, Sherborne, in their first group game. A very tight match was decided when KES conceded a last-minute goal for a 0-1 defeat.

Galvanised by the frustration of their earlier loss, the girls raised their game and, with wins against Warminster and Taunton School and a hard-fought draw against Canford School, qualified for the semi-finals as runners-up in their group.

With four tough matches behind them, KES faced off against another King Edward's - Southampton, who had finished top of the other group. This was a match where the defences of both sides were on top and finished in a 0-0 draw, meaning that a place in the final was to be decided on penalties. The KES girls held their nerve, winning the shootout 3-2 and found themselves in a repeat of the opening match as they faced Sherborne once again in the final. In another tense and tight match, neither team could break the deadlock. After another nail-biting shootout; KES emerged with a 1-0 victory and were crowned overall champions!

■ Mr P Livesey HEAD OF HOCKEY

MAKING KES NETBALL HISTORY

The Autumn Term saw three KES netball squads training in preparation for the first round of the National Schools Competition.

The U19 team started the campaign in a strong position, having trained with a squad of 16 players and tested themselves playing in various games against local schools and more senior club sides such as Team Bath and Fry Netball Club. Following the successful half-term tour to Dubai, a squad of 11 was selected to compete in the County Tournament. Winning all their pool games, the U19s faced Collegiate in the semi-final, which they won 11-9, thereby securing their place in the Regional Finals in February. The standard at this age group is fantastic, and the achievement of qualifying to compete at this level should not be underestimated. This also marks the 25th team in KES Netball history to qualify for the Regional Finals, a brilliant accolade for the School and to all of those involved.

The U16 and U14 squads competed in their County Tournaments the following week. Both squads demonstrated some great netball and resilience against strong opposition. The U14 squad narrowly missed out on a semi-final placing, however on this occasion neither of these squads qualified for the Regional round. Well done to everyone who represented KES at these tournaments and good luck to the U19s in the Regional round in February.

■ Miss R Collett
ACTING HEAD OF NETBALL

U19 Netball Squad



INAUGURAL KES NETBALL TOUR TO DUBAI

The Netball Tour to Dubai marked the first overseas sports tour for KES since before the pandemic.

The focus of the tour was pre-season preparation for our senior netball players. The tour ticked all the boxes and more, with every pupil developing impressively both on and off the court in a short space of time.

We landed in Dubai at 6am and were hit by 38-degree heat, a welcome relief from the wet courts of the UK! A court session at the Dubai 7s stadium helped the girls to acclimatize in the evening sun ahead of their first matches against Dubai College the following day.

Day one and we were straight into four games. Unfortunately, our consistency was lacking against some strong sides, containing a number of UAE representative players. We came away with some wins, some losses and a determination to refine our skills in the next games. A day at the world's largest waterpark, Atlantis, seemed to lift the team spirits as the girls enjoyed some adrenaline filled rides alongside some R&R on the lazy river.

In Abu Dhabi, we played four more games against club sides, which saw the girls take their netball and resilience to a whole new level, winning most games but also playing a different style of netball to cope with the high temperatures. We were also lucky enough to get a place in the Saxo Bank Hurricanes Netball 7s tournament later that evening! We played some exciting netball



but missed out on the quarter-finals by just one goal! However the committed way in which the girls played throughout the tournament was reflected in them being awarded the prestigious 'Spirit of Saxo Award'.

Our final two games were against Dubai English Speaking College (DESC). The fluid play and technical development from all players was clear to see, and the confidence that had developed between the players was huge. The KES coaching team could not have been prouder of the final performances seen from both teams.

Other highlights of the trip included sand boarding on the desert safari, bartering at the Souk Old Town Markets, the trip up the Burj Khalifa and some great shopping in Dubai Mall. The tour was a huge success on every level. It was a privilege to be away with such a talented group of KES pupils, knowing that they had made memories to last a lifetime, strengthened friendships through shared experiences and developed as sportswomen. We very much hope that this tour will be the platform into what I am sure will be a hugely rewarding 2023/24 netball season.

■ Mrs L Gwilliam
ACTING DIRECTOR OF SPORT

✕ @KESBathSport

GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY



During the last academic year, around 30 pupils chose to volunteer at our various partner institutions as part of the Sixth Form Community Service programme.

These included placements at the Junior School, various local primary schools and two local care homes. Within the schools, pupils were involved in a range of activities such as reading with the younger children and assisting with Art, DT, Maths and Science lessons. Our volunteers at the care homes have helped to enrich the daily lives of the residents, playing board games, singing songs and even dancing! Some of our pupils have even taken along their instruments

and played live music, which is always well received.

This year's pupils have continued in the same vein – they are enthusiastic and committed to their placements and have already forged excellent relationships with both the senior citizens and the younger children with whom they volunteer.

It has been a pleasure to see how dedicated and helpful our pupils have been, giving their time willingly to help members of our local community. Our Sixth Form pupils continue to be a credit to the School.

■ Mrs E Grainger COMMUNITY SERVICE CO-ORDINATOR



An update from the Health and Wellbeing Centre

In January 2023, Mrs Michalik joined the Health and Wellbeing Centre team as our Healthcare Assistant.

She has been instrumental, along with her daughter, in making our lovely new Wellbeing Room a calming, safe and inviting space. Furnished with bean bags, a sofa, soft lighting, quiet music, colouring, Sudoku and puzzles, this holistically inspired room allows pupils to enjoy some quiet time and to decompress.

In addition to this, Mrs Michalik organised the Adventurer First Aid training for Year 12 and 13 pupils. The training, which is run by Mini First Aid, is designed to teach young people who are planning to travel vital first aid skills to use in far flung places! It was attended by 16 KES pupils who found the day extremely rewarding and beneficial.

■ Mrs C Turner LEAD NURSE AND WELLBEING CO-ORDINATOR



The Giant Poppy Project

To commemorate Remembrance Sunday, the School Chaplain launched the Giant Poppy Project; this involved creating a giant 'rainbow' poppy, which was made up of hundreds of smaller poppies.

Each year group wrote messages on the poppies, reflecting on remembrance, with the colours signifying a range of symbolic references: red for the two World Wars, orange for unsung heroes, yellow for the families back home, green for soldiers on the front line, blue for the peacemakers, indigo for those injured in war and violet for political leaders and the decision-makers.



AN ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

On Sunday the 12th November, KES CCF cadets proudly marked Remembrance Sunday by representing the contingent at a Service of Remembrance at Bath's war memorial, followed later in the day by the historic parade through the city centre.

At the war memorial, we stood with poise and a sense of honour during the solemn proceedings. Wreaths were laid and a hymn was sung to collectively pay respects to those who lost their lives due to conflict, particularly those who sacrificed themselves during times of war.

Our march through Bath was an unforgettable display of confidence and precision. As the Corps of Drums played the King's Royal Hussars' regimental march, the contingent paraded with gravitas and grace: junior cadets, senior cadets and officers alike. The success of the whole day was undoubtedly a testament to the determination of everyone involved in the weeks leading up to this occasion to make sure that we represented the corps – and the School – to the absolute best of our abilities.

■ Cpl Defne Sertoglu YEAR 12

Exercise Warrior Cadet

At the beginning of the summer holidays, cadets from KES CCF were deployed to the Brecon Beacons for Exercise Warrior Cadet, a testing 48-hour training exercise against a fierce and determined enemy.

Over the two days, the cadets patrolled through the difficult terrain of the Sennybridge training area, finding and destroying any 'enemy forces' they found in order to secure a road. In the face of challenging weather conditions and heavy rain, the platoon gradually advanced, patrolling in groups of eight to ten through the mist and rain to seek out the enemy positions, gather information and attack. Using the trees, bushes, streams, ditches and undulating ground for cover, the cadets pushed further into enemy territory, sleeping

in the woods at night – with sentries posted at key positions to give advance warning of any enemy approaching, and everyone prepared to repel an attack. The defining feature of Warrior Cadet is 'expect the unexpected', so situations such as a night-time assault on the cadets' sleeping positions certainly tested everyone to the full.

On the final morning, the platoon carried out an attack on the heavily defended enemy headquarters, set up in a disused farm surrounded by steep hills. Supported by artillery fire and smokescreens, the platoon cleared the buildings using their newly learned 'FIBUA' (Fighting In Built Up Areas) abilities and destroyed the enemy forces. After completing the exercise, all cadets who showed the required level of skill were awarded the Advanced Infantry badge, an indication of the standard of infantry skills they had attained.

For many, this was their first 'tactical exercise', which required a new set

CADETS THRIVE ON METHOD OF INSTRUCTION COURSE

The MOI (Method of Instruction) is a ten-day promotional course held at KES during August, which prepares senior cadets to instruct the younger ones on the fundamentals of the CCF syllabus.

The course was really enlightening, and a great team bonding exercise for us Year 11 cadets. It consisted of three sections: Drill, Fieldcraft and Skill at Arms. We were each told which two lessons we would be leading before the MOI course, and we had a month to learn the information. For many of us, the lessons we were going to

teach were new to us, and it was initially a bit of a challenge to understand them. However, we learned a valuable lesson about preparation, as a lot of us ended up studying our lessons just a few days before the course – not our best move, but we worked hard and it paid off!

All in all, the MOI course was eventful, but great fun. Despite initially struggling to teach some of the lessons successfully, we all persevered, passed the course and were awarded the rank of Acting Lance Corporal! A big shout out to the NCOs who helped on the MOI; they really made the course what it was.

I would recommend the MOI course to any Year 10 cadet, as it's a lot of fun. We made lots of good memories and will be going go karting together soon! The knowledge and lessons we learned have been invaluable in our CCF training – the hard work is always worth it!

■ LCpl Juliet Heath YEAR 11



of skills and strategies, and was their first real experience of using tactics in the field and firing blank ammunition in a tactical situation. For the more experienced cadets, this was a challenge of leadership, often having to deal with the unexpected, when put in a position of command. Amongst other things, we learned a great deal about trust!

■ Owen Williams YEAR 13



@KESBathCCF

Amazing accomplishments at Altcar for the Corps!

During October, over 500 members of Military Bands, Corps of Drums and Pipes and Drums gathered at central points around the UK to share in the joy of music in the Army Cadets.

Cadets and staff from KES Bath CCF travelled to Altcar, Merseyside during the half-term holiday, attending the second of three National Music Camps held in the autumn. For some, this was their very first experience of a music camp (and for a few, the first time even picking up an instrument!), whilst for others, it was an opportunity to take the next step on their musical journey. The camp encouraged cadets to become more confident, more responsible and more independent, bringing together people

from all walks of life and from different parts of the country.

Our cadets made excellent progress in their musical skills, with some incredible achievements, including one of our youngest and newest members, Cadet Rix, being awarded the coveted Corrigan Cup, for Best Cadet in Beginner Corps of Drums.

Amongst our budding beginners, there were senior cadets who took the opportunity to learn a second instrument. Already accomplished drummers, Cpl Tim Byers and Cpl Defne Sertoglu joined the Beginner cadre to try their hand at the bugle and the flute.



Drummers Toby Luker and Eric Chi successfully completed their 3 Star assessment, whilst flautist Wendy Zhang ably passed her 2 Star. In the Senior Band, Heath Bowcott and

Charles Street demonstrated their expertise on trumpet and saxophone, achieving their 3 Star badge.

Following in the footsteps of older brother, Angus, our French horn player, Laura Cannock, known affectionately to the staff as "Little Cannock", was delighted to receive the award for "Best in Senior Band". Many congratulations to Laura and indeed to all cadets who enthusiastically took part, had a go and brought home an award.

■ Capt C Jones KES BATH CCF

✕ @KESBathCCF

BATH YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR



During the Autumn Term we received the fantastic news that two of the five finalists at this year's Mid-Somerset Festival 'Bath Young Musician of the Year' competition were KES pupils, with cellist Indra Pandit (Year 11) and saxophonist Dotty Hodge (Year 13) both invited to perform.

Indira set the tone for the evening and the level of musicianship at a stunningly high level, giving full expression and texture to the challenges of music by Debussy and Shostakovich. She displayed a maturity of technique and sound well beyond her years. Dotty later performed a superbly varied, entertaining and well-crafted programme in the middle of the evening, raising the roof with her terrific performance on the Alto Sax. She was praised for her outstanding 'virtuosity' and 'phenomenal stage presence.' With dramatic shifts in mood and influence, from playful jazz to brilliant classical lines, via melancholic folk melodies, the many colours of the saxophone were on full display and she was deservedly awarded the winner's trophy!

Congratulations to both of these very talented KES Musicians!

Autumn Colours

The Autumn Colours Concert is a great way for musicians from across the Senior School, to showcase their talents and performance skills in an informal and musically inspiring setting.

I sang Mozart's *Ho capito, Signor sì!*, an aria from the opera, *Don Giovanni*. Although I was initially nervous about performing, the Music department created a supportive environment, where every pupil could perform confidently and to an exceptional level. I was particularly impressed with Ryan Cheung's (Year 11) piano skills when playing Debussy's *Arabesque No.2*, a grade 8 piece! He played from memory, allowing him to perform with lots of expression.

The spirit amongst the pupils was high and it was great to see the more experienced senior performers, guiding the younger pupils and offering helpful advice when needed. My favourite moment was when Mr Riordan accidentally let go of his conductor's baton, which flew into the audience, making for an amusing yet entertaining performance of *The Lord of The Rings* by KES Wind!

The evening was a perfect showcase for KES Music and with so many wonderful performances, many coming from Years 7, 8 and 9, it was clear to see that the future of KES Music is looking stronger than ever!

■ Edward Walton YEAR 11



✕ @KESBathMusic

A Thanksgiving and Memorial Service for a former Headmaster

A specially formed Tudor Rose Choir of more than 40 singers undertook the great honour and privilege of providing music for the thanksgiving and memorial service for former KES Headmaster, Dr John Wroughton, in Bath Abbey in October. The Service was attended by a congregation of over 350 people, with KES musicians and singers performing underneath the spectacular 'Gaia' artwork of a scale model of The Earth by Luke Jerram.



After leading Dr Wroughton's four specially chosen and uplifting hymns, the choir's rendition of Fauré's *In Paradisum* from his *Requiem* was truly heavenly, receiving admiring comments from the hundreds of Old Edwardians who had gathered to pay their grateful respects to an inspirational teacher and Headmaster, who was also a wonderful supporter of KES Music.

The Service included both poignant and light-hearted reflections from all parts of Dr Wroughton's life, with tributes given by his nephew, John W G Wroughton, former Chair of Governors, Mark Rutherford, The Rt Hon John Glen MP, Old Edwardian, and the Headmaster, Martin Boden.

Service of Nine Readings and Carols

To mark the end of a busy Autumn Term, the KES Senior School community gathered to enjoy one of the highlights of the calendar year, the Service of Nine Readings and Carols, held in Bath Abbey.

With the exterior of the Abbey illuminated by the most amazing, projected coloured lighting, the inside was filled with candlelight and Christmas cheer. It was an evening which never disappoints, with tickets snapped up faster than hot mince pies!

Featuring exceptional singing and playing from our talented soloists, KES 24, KES Senior Singers and KES Contemporary, as well as a new, dramatic piece, *Light Out of Darkness*, by our resident KES Composer, Mr Mark Boden, the evening was a truly moving and memorable experience.

The nine readings were read most capably by both pupils and staff, with the welcome, prayers and reflections conducted very thoughtfully by our School Chaplain, Rachell Howlett, who led the Service for the first time this year.

The Service concluded with the combined choirs processing by candlelight down the nave into the cool night air, singing *Recession* from *A Ceremony of Carols* by Benjamin Britten.



✕ @KESBathMusic

 @KESBathJunior


AN UNEXPECTED GIFT

In the Autumn Term, the Junior School were delighted to be the recipients of a most generous donation of a baby grand piano.

The piano was donated by the Solleveld family, whose long connection with the School as a KES family made the donation even more special. The School already has exciting plans for a musical recital in the Spring Term, when they will showcase both the beautiful piano and the playing of their young pianists, from beginners right through to the more experienced junior players. Many years of music lie in store for this beautiful piano.

The School would like to thank the Solleveld family for such a kind gift.

Bath Children's Literature Festival

This year saw another feast of inspiration at the Bath Children's Literature Festival.

Not only were the children completely inspired to read more books and start writing, but they also learned so many other interesting skills and facts from the authors they visited. Year 3 laughed along with Rob Biddulph, who taught them how to draw all his cute and clever characters, while Jenny Pearson had Year 4 in fits of giggles over the weird and wonderful world records included in her books.



Magic tricks were the highlight for Year 5 at their Frank Cottrell-Boyce event, and Katherine Rundell immersed Year 6 in a fantastical world of impossible creatures whose origins lie in myths and legends throughout the world.

How lucky we are to have annual access to such an incredible event!

■ Mrs E Heaney
JS ENGLISH CO-ORDINATOR

History comes alive for Year 4!

In November, the Junior School was transformed into Anglo-Saxon Britain for one day with the help, guidance and enthusiasm of the fantastic Past Presents team.

Year 4 pupils had an amazing day, being introduced to a wonderful array of costumes, artefacts and weaponry as part of their history topic. The day began with a dramatic midnight raid by the Vikings on an unsuspecting Anglo-Saxon Monastery, where they stole a hoard of treasure. This led to the Battle of Edington, where the Anglo-Saxons were victorious. We then celebrated the victory of this battle with a feast and acted out the story of Beowulf. The children explored bereavement, burials and beyond in the Sutton Hoo mystery of the discovery of the Viking longship.

Thank you to the Past Presents team for delivering a fabulous, immersive experience.

■ Miss L Chapman YEAR 4 TEACHER



CASTLE COMBE CHARITY CYCLE

How do you raise £2,544 in two hours? Put lots of families on bikes and ask them to cycle around the Castle Combe Circuit, of course!

It seemed a long time since we had done a whole community event for the School, so it felt great to see so many families joining in the fun and helping to raise money for our three chosen Junior School charities this year. We had a wide range of ages involved, with children as young as 3 years old taking

up the challenge! It was obvious to all who attended that everyone enjoyed the charity event, with many choosing to do an extra lap! There was also a healthy degree of competition with some timed laps, followed by a delicious sausage and chips lunch, which was kindly provided free of charge by the Castle Combe Circuit. A massive thank you to all the families and to Castle Combe Circuit for making it all possible.

■ Mrs E Pike JS DIRECTOR OF ACTIVITIES

Anti-Bullying Week – 'Odd Socks Day'

To help raise awareness during Anti-Bullying Week, the Junior School arranged a programme of presentations and activities during assemblies, form time and PSHE lessons, all based around the theme, 'Make a Noise'.

The week focused on the pupils coming together and having open discussions about what bullying means to them, how banter can turn into something more hurtful, and what can be done to stop bullying.

The week culminated in the School's annual 'Odd Socks Day', where the children (and staff) demonstrated their support by wearing their wackiest odd socks. The day is an important opportunity to encourage people to express themselves, and their individuality and to celebrate what makes us all unique!



IAPS COMPETITIONS

A group of Year 6 boys represented the School impeccably in November, competing at the U11 Rugby IAPS regional competition hosted by Sherborne School.



The team demonstrated fantastic teamwork, resilience and determination throughout the day, despite the soggy conditions. Following an unbeaten run of results against some formidable opponents, which included Mount Kelly, Sherborne, Bristol Grammar, Hazelgrove and Clifton, they finished in top place, winning the tournament – an impressive achievement and a real team/squad effort.

In hockey, our U11 hockey IAPS team travelled to King's Bruton for their regional competition in October. The children were excellent ambassadors for the School. Not only did the girls play some fantastic hockey, but they embraced each match, continually developing and honing their skills as the day progressed and supporting each other both on and off the pitch.

A special thank you to all the parents who came to support the teams at both events.

■ Mr A Rousell and Miss G Symonds
JS BOYS' AND GIRLS' GAMES LEAD



NATIONAL SCIENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Huge congratulations to our amazing Junior School science teams, who gave a superb account of themselves in the National Science Championships area heat.

After 30 scientific questions, our teams finished 1st, 4th, 6th and 17th out of 55 teams competing from across the country. Our first placed team has secured themselves a spot in the National Final, which will be held at the University of Oxford in June, whilst our three other teams are through to the semi-final in January. We are eagerly awaiting the next nail-biting round!

■ Mr C Carter JS SCIENCE CO-ORDINATOR

WELCOME TO THE STONE AGE!

On a chilly November day, Year 3 pupils travelled to Stonehenge. We took part in some exciting activities in the education centre, including making our own timeline and even trying to lift and drag a replica stone to demonstrate how Stonehenge was built.

We visited a neolithic hut and had a go at grinding barley using a grinding stone. We even pretended we were Stone Age children and made up some games using stones and sticks!

After our delicious packed lunches we visited the henge. It was exciting to see the enormous stones and imagine what it must have been like as the Stone Age people gathered to celebrate

mid-winter. We learnt about the winter solstice festival and how the sun sets through the great trilithon on the shortest day of the year. We also learnt that the sun rises above the heel stone on the summer solstice (the longest day of the year).

We finished our trip with a look around the museum. We loved the interactive video and watching how the seasons, the weather and the light change at different times of the year. We are still undecided about what Stone and Bronze Age people used Stonehenge for, but we know it was a special place and we had a wonderful day!

■ Mrs L Waddington
YEAR 3 TEACHER



Nothing but blue skies and open seas ahead!

"Ready About! Lee Ho!" This year, we unveiled a thrilling new addition to our co-curricular offerings – an opportunity for children to delve into the world of sailing!

Embarking on this nautical adventure, we whisked eight young sailors off to the vibrant harbour area of Bristol during the Autumn Term. Here, they were taught about rigging RS Zests, navigating specified courses, capsizing a lot (a favourite activity with many requests for repeats!), improving windward and leeward turns, handling sail reefing in windier conditions and, finally, delving into the exciting world of sailing races! Buoyed by the success of this fantastic experience, we eagerly anticipate setting sail once again in Bristol in the Summer Term!

■ Mr C Carter JS SAILING CLUB LEAD

Spooky fun at the Halloween disco

The hallways of the Junior School were filled with laughter, excitement and a touch of eerie delight as children gathered for a spooktacular after-school Halloween disco.

Dressed in a myriad of costumes, from ghouls to superheroes, the pupils were ready to dance the evening away in a hauntingly good way. Thanks to the invaluable help of our parent representatives, the school hall was transformed into a haunted wonderland, complete with donated pumpkins and decorations.

A key ingredient in any successful disco is the music! A fantastic DJ took charge, filling the air with pulsating beats, and vibrant lights

transformed the hall into a dance floor, inviting all the little monsters to showcase their best dance moves.

While the children were busy grooving to the music, the school council were hard at work ensuring that the event ran smoothly. They managed a stall selling refreshing lemonade and delicious popcorn, adding a tasty touch to the evening. They also judged the best dancers and best costume to add an extra layer of excitement.

The disco was not just about dancing; it was also a chance to contribute to our worthy charities, raising a monstrous £475!

■ Mr C Carter JS SCHOOL COUNCIL



STAR BAKERS

Christmas Cookery was another highlight of the festive events at the Junior School. Sandi and her team of Christmas elves prepped the ingredients, decorated the hall and got into the Christmas spirit ready to deliver a festive treat for the children.

The children arrived in their festive jumpers and aprons ready to make a selection of delectable Christmas treats! They worked in groups happily mixing, pouring, rolling, sprinkling, baking and chopping to create spiced festive shaped biscuits, polar bear fondant mints, a real melting snowman

and reindeer cupcakes! The pupils all helped to make the dough for the biscuits, mixed the fondant and added just the right amount of mint. With the icing, they glued all the bits of the snowman together and spread the chocolate icing on their cupcake before adding his red nose, pretzel antlers and edible googly eyes! The dining hall was awash with icing sugar clouds, hundreds and thousands covering the

tables, silver sprinkles stuck to our jumpers and smiles all over our faces. It was a fabulous morning and, with festive music filling the hall, it felt like Christmas had begun!

■ Miss L Chapman YEAR 4 TEACHER



Spreading Christmas cheer for all to hear

In December, the musicians at the Junior School were busy spreading Christmas cheer with a variety of performances and engagements.

Performing at St Luke's Church alongside the Bath All Comers' Orchestra was a real highlight for our Upper School Choir members. The children sang beautifully and thoroughly enjoyed joining in with body percussion during the Orchestra's *Sleigh Ride* piece. Lottie's angelic performance on the harp added a touch of magic, and the mince pies at the end were well received too.

Our Year 6 singers visited Dorothy House, where they received a very warm welcome. The children sang festive songs and told bad Christmas jokes – which brought joy to everyone!



The Senior Citizens' Christmas Concert was once again a huge success, with a full house of guests and pupils enjoying musical performances from our two choirs, orchestra, string ensemble, flute duo, clarinet ensemble, oboe soloist and violin duo, as well as singing classic Christmas carols. It was lovely to welcome senior members of the Bath community, which included residents from Midford Manor Care Home. It was wonderful to have all generations singing carols together and enjoying each other's company. To quote the seasonal film, *Elf*, "The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear." – our Junior School singers did just that!

The Christmas Lunch this year had a uniquely Caribbean feel – whilst the pupils ate their delicious fare prepared by the Catering Team,

our Year 6 Steel Pan team entertained with their energetic playing.

To round-off the festivities, the Junior School finished the term with their annual carol service at St Mary's Church, Bathwick. The service included readings by pupils in each year group, performances by our Lower and Upper School Choirs and a beautiful song performed by all of Year 3, complete with bells. The brass ensemble performed brilliantly, and the congregational carols were sung with great feeling. The service was a truly magical event and a great way to finish off the term and to start the Christmas holidays.

■ Mrs C Hutchings
JS DIRECTOR OF MUSIC



AUTUMN FESTIVALS



From beginning to end, the Autumn Term is a whirl of religious festivals and seasonal celebrations. Whether it be Harvest, the Asian Mid-Autumn Lunar Festival, Halloween, Remembrance Day, Diwali, Thanksgiving, Hannukah, Advent or Christmas, the Pre-Prep welcomes the chance to celebrate and share festivals from the wealth of cultures that make up the School's family.

This autumn, the Harvest Festival and the Asian Mid-Autumn Lunar Festival were brought together as the first whole Pre-Prep school celebration of the new academic year.

It was very exciting for the children and staff to welcome parents and the Reverend Emma King from Weston All Saints Church to the festival.

For some of the children and parents it was the first time they had been to a Pre-Prep celebration. Thankfully, the event went extremely well, and everyone had a wonderful time.

Mrs Hutchings had carefully selected a host of seasonal songs which the children performed beautifully. Each year group had a special part to play during the event. Year 2 acted out *Stone Soup*, the traditional tale which teaches the importance of sharing and being kind to neighbours. Year 1 gave a superb performance of the traditional Chinese autumn story of *Houyi and the Moon Goddess*, while the children in Reception and Nursery performed some wonderful songs and rhymes. The day was topped off with a delicious lunch provided by Mrs Mortimer and her team.

The joy of reading

Reading isn't just a key element of the curriculum; at the Pre-Prep, it's our passion!

The corridors and classrooms are full of books that greet you like a good friend, serving as a daily literary adventure. In colourful classrooms, the teachers and assistants share favourite titles and characters whilst regularly listening to the children read. This practice hones those important skills that forge a lifelong love of reading.

Long-term project work at the School has often been built on the strength of a book. The charming misadventures of Paddington Bear have inspired our Year 1 pupils to produce amazing maps in their Geography lessons and to create mini Paddingtons out of toilet rolls in Art! Many of the topics and wall displays are based on books, further igniting the children's passion for reading and learning beyond the classroom.

At the Pre-Prep, we are lucky to have our very own designated library. Every Thursday, the children visit this cosy space, where librarian Miss Bowman, from the Senior School, shares her enthusiasm for reading before helping everyone choose a fact book or story to borrow.

From classics to award-winners, each child will find a book at the Pre-Prep to cherish and enjoy.

■ Miss L Bowman LIBRARIAN



In November, the Year 2 children thoroughly enjoyed working with Bath City Librarian and Archivist, Anne Buchanon.

Anne has been a much-valued regular visitor to the Pre-Prep and has worked with different cohorts of Year 2 children for many years. This is one of many great opportunities for the pupils to work with experts from different fields. Anne introduced the children to three original 19th century maps detailing Weston village at different points in its development during the Victorian period. It was lovely to see the children poring over

the antique primary sources with their magnifying glasses. The children finally found the evidence they needed to prove that the Pre-Prep building was indeed built in the Victorian period. There, in the second of the three maps dated 1852, the school building which was known as The Retreat was clear to see. To complete the children's knowledge, Anne also brought along with her a set of original almanacs and census returns to help the children learn some basic information about the family and servants who lived in the house between 1851 and 1931. It was a very important military family!

Introducing two new members of teaching staff to the Pre-Prep family...

MRS A MOORES
New Nursery Teacher

To introduce a little about me, I have taught across infant and junior schools for nearly 20 years in both mainstream and special needs schools. I love teaching in Early Years and find that the children's excitement and enthusiasm makes every day a pleasure!

In Nursery, our team has created a learning environment that the children find exciting and motivating. I love to set up learning opportunities that will capture the children's interests and imaginations and always make the activities purposeful and relevant to the children's lives and experiences. The children particularly enjoyed learning about birthdays during the Autumn Term, where they designed and made sandwiches, measured their heads and made some fantastic party hats. Number work is particularly important, and in Nursery the number 4 is the most important! The children loved investigating the number 4 and it linked well to the birthday topic. I especially enjoyed playing pass the parcel with the children and having a special tea party!

I am looking forward to seeing all the great progress that the children make over the year and I am very keen to get involved as much as possible with the wider community of King Edward's.

MRS M WELLS
New Reception Teacher

I moved to Bath from London in 2015 where I taught Reception at Thomas's, Battersea for many years.

Forest School trained, I enjoy getting children fully immersed in nature, and encouraging them to explore their creativity with their hands, whether that be clay, leaves, sticks or just playing outside. I am a strong believer that this creativity promotes self-esteem, confidence and independence and is also a lot of fun! My passions are pottery, art and nature, and I feel very lucky to be able to share those interests in my work with my delightful class of Reception children.

With three of my four children at the Senior School, and my eldest now in Sixth Form, I have seen first-hand the positive impact that KES offers and I am delighted to have joined the KES Pre-Prep team.



Mystery Reader

A much-loved feature of life in Reception is the weekly Mystery Reader time.

Every Friday afternoon, just before the children leave for the weekend, both classes gather themselves together on the carpet to listen out for a knock on the classroom door. The excitement and anticipation rise palpably amongst the children as they begin to wonder who the mystery reader will be.

It is an absolute joy to see their faces as they hear the knock on the door. The children then must welcome the mystery reader into the classroom with a very loud: "Come in Mystery Reader!" The guest could be a family member of one of the children or it could be a member of staff



from a different section of the School. One week it was the Headmaster! Whoever it is, the children are enthralled by having a guest in their room sharing a host of wonderful stories. It is very much part of sharing the joy of stories and reading which the Pre-Prep nurtures in as many ways as possible.

WHATEVER THE WEATHER

Forest School has always been one of the Pre-Prep children's favourite times of the week. Whatever the weather, they are outside in their wellies and outdoor clothes, thoroughly enjoying being immersed in nature.

During the Autumn Term, Forest School saw a bit of a change, with Miss Perry taking on the responsibility of leading the children's activities for Nursery and Year 1 and Mrs Wells teaching the Reception classes. Consequently, there have been a lot of new and exciting activities going on each week.

With the changing weather and a host of religious and secular festivals since September, there have been many exciting and interesting activities taking place during the Forest School sessions. Some of the children's most memorable highlights include using natural items to create mandals for Diwali, singing American songs around a campfire for Thanksgiving, making poppies for Remembrance Day, tree decorations using natural

items for Christmas and looking at seasonal changes to celebrate the Irish festival of Samhain.

Of course, one of the prime lessons in Forest School is learning how to look after nature and observe changes in nature over time. Through a combination of stories, observations and gathering of natural items, the children are quickly becoming much more adept at identifying different plants, particularly trees and mushrooms, in and around the School grounds and they are beginning to understand the impact of the passage of time on the world around them.



MAPPING THE PAST





On an Artistic Journey with Year 1

The Pre-Prep children love Art and Design in all its many forms and having Mr Willison teach Art every Friday afternoon is a huge treat for them. His passion for his subject entuses the pupils and helps them to produce some wonderful artwork which is beyond the normal expectations for children so young.

During the Autumn Term, Mr Willison helped the Year 1 children with their 'Journeys' topic, using the wonderful character of Paddington Bear for inspiration.

They began by learning how to draw Paddington step by step, copying him as he guided them through the process. Then they went on adventure exploring Peru and London, the two places where Paddington had the most paw biting experiences. They used mixed media materials, controlled drawing, tracing techniques and even making skills to create three-dimensional Paddingtons. Year 1 have also been lucky enough to have Year 6 pupils, Auriel and Ned, join them from the Junior School in their Art lessons for additional support.

Learning through music

At the Pre-Prep, children receive specialist music tuition from Nursery through to Year 2.

In their weekly lessons, there is a strong emphasis on singing. Singing has huge benefits, such as supporting language development, building vocabulary, improving wellbeing and a sense of belonging and, most importantly, it's fun! Singing is a great way of bringing the children together as a community, and the Year 2 choir is a favourite activity for many on Wednesday lunchtimes, where the children enjoy learning a variety of fun songs and singing games.

In addition to a healthy diet of singing, the children are fortunate to have a wide range of percussion instruments, including a full set of African djembe drums. Children develop their instrumental skills through

performing and composing their own music. In Nursery, children learn to use symbols and hand signals to represent different types of sound. These are later developed into graphic scores in Reception, whilst in Years 1 and 2, children are introduced to reading rhythms from notation. In Year 2, they develop their instrumental skills further through learning to play the ocarina. The Christmas and Summer productions are always a highlight, and we enjoy visiting the local care home to share our music. Through music at the Pre-Prep, the children learn about local traditions and other cultures, as well as how to appreciate a range of genres, to express themselves and to discover the young musician inside.

■ Mrs C Hutchings

JS & PP DIRECTOR OF MUSIC



High jumps and monkey bars

Here at the Pre-Prep, we are extremely lucky to have a fantastic all-weather pitch and an indoor space where the children can actively participate in sporting activities.

Year 1 pupils have been working especially hard during their PE lessons this year. As part of functional movement, the children have been learning to move at different heights and speeds across a range of equipment, with the help of Mr Rousell from the Junior School, who has been supporting Ms Wall with the children's physical education development.

'Tis the season to be jolly



Christmas 2023 saw a slight refresh of some the Pre-Prep's traditions.

The much-loved Nativity play this year was a collaboration between Year 1 and Reception; the Christingle Service couldn't take place in Weston All Saints but was replaced with a superb Victorian Christmas and Christingle Service with Year 2, whilst the wonderful carol singing around the tree was a time for just the Nursery children and their parents to enjoy. Consequently, all four year groups were given a festive chance to shine and sparkle.

The fantastic Year 2 Christingle, with its songs, poem and lessons about Christmas in the nineteenth century, heralded the start of the Advent season. It was quickly added to with a celebration of St Nicholas's Day, when the children

all found a little treat in one of their wellington boots. Then came the Nativity play which was a stunning performance of *A King is Born*.

The other special treats included seeing Father Christmas sitting in his favourite armchair by the fireplace in the hall, the delicious Christmas lunch, which everyone looks forward to, and to finish off the festivities, fun party games were held in all the classrooms to celebrate the last afternoon of the term.

On the last day, everybody in the Pre-Prep wore their favourite Christmas jumper to help raise money for the British Heart Foundation and the Air Ambulance, and the Nursery sent everyone home at lunchtime full of Christmas cheer thanks to their lovely Christmas songs.

BATH ORCHESTRAL GALA CONCERT 2024

King Edward's School and Bath Philharmonia
Partnership Performance



OUR DIVERSE WORLD

Wednesday 20th March
The Forum, Bath

Doors open from 6.30pm
Performance at 7.00pm

Refreshments available from
the Forum Bar during the interval.

Full details can be found on our website:
www.kesbath.com

FEATURING MUSIC BY

Laura Karpman
Hans Zimmer
Florence Price
Edward Elgar
Kerry Andrew
Antonín Dvořák
Rebecca Dale
Carl Maria von Weber

AND OUR RESIDENT COMPOSER

Mark Boden



**KING
EDWARD'S
SCHOOL
BATH**

www.kesbath.com



**KES
SUSTAINABILITY
RECYCLABLE**



Designed by Caroline Curran Design

Printed by Park Lane Press on FSC® certified paper, using fully sustainable vegetable oil-based inks and waterless printing technology. Power from 100% renewable resources with zero to waste landfill. Print production systems registered to ISO 14001, ISO 9001.

