Those of you who were at the Mogonjet Mini Marathon (pictured right) at the end of May will have been as thrilled as me to find out from Sue Smith at Hand in Hand that KEGS has raised over £35,000 to support our partner school in Kenya! A further £1100 was raised on the day through sponsorship, donations and refreshment sales so thank you to all involved.

Our partnership has now been going for twelve years and many of you will have followed the school’s progress with interest. Whilst the money is important in allowing the school to build, for example, classrooms, a tailoring workshop, a lab and a resource centre, along with supporting ten students every year to access education and a high achiever to move on to University, there is no doubt that our students and KEGS also reap the benefit of the link.

This heartfelt piece by Tayo gives some idea of the impact the trip has on our students:

Going to Mogonjet School was an interesting experience for me as a KEGS student, for various reasons. The first of which was seeing the difference in terms of the mind sets of the students there, and the way in which that’s influence by both the education system itself and the societal backgrounds from which they originate. It was particularly intriguing to see the way in which the system of rote learning which I had already heard about actually had its effects in terms of the way many children had a barrier between them and approaching creative subjects. This really just emphasised the importance to me of having creative subjects and outlets available and encouraged for young people – something I hope I had a minor impact with in teaching drama/creative writing workshops with the students. Mogonjet (as well as the Nakuru Training Institute and the University of Kabianga, both of which we visited) also really cemented the idea of there being some degree of basic shared humanity that spread across continents and people in general, given how much we could actually find to have in common with the students there, because at the end of the day, teens are just teens.

At the same time, the community walk around Mogonjet showed how different we were from these students in their quality of life. Whilst living in a beautiful area, they had parents who largely worked in the tea fields or other low-paying jobs, meaning they lived in housing radically different to ours. This contrast in wealth was evident throughout the trip and was a crucial thing to see, to be able to contextualise the splendour in which many of us live and the actual human lives behind the incredibly cheap produce that we buy in this country. In spite of this lack of wealth, people were so welcoming and proud and hopeful, with an openness rarely seen in the UK. The sheer level of kindness we were subject to throughout the duration of the trip was honestly inspiring and something we should all try and apply in our lives.
The amount of money we have raised for New Hope is not so easy to quantify as most comes from the students who visit Kenya each year and the money they donate, alongside the resources we take with us including clothes, shoes and play and educational materials. Here, Hania shares her experiences of New Hope:

From the moment I set foot in New Hope, I knew I was absolutely going to love my time there, and I did, mainly because they were all so welcoming. I cherished every single second I spent there. Understandably, there were some heart-breaking moments such as saying goodbye to the children - I never would have expected to become so close to them as I did. However, more than those moments, there were so many more great memories that were created with the children there. My days were filled to the brim with laughter, joy and happiness.

Meeting the children for the first time has to have been one of my highlights. The children were absolutely delighted to see us, and it was clearly visible from the massive grins that were painted on their faces. They had no preconceptions about us or what type of people we were and immediately threw themselves at us. I would say there is this contentment that you experience from being surrounded by smiling children, there is nothing to do but smile back. That was one of the lessons that I learnt from children as small as 4 years old, to simply smile more. Especially in this day and age, when teenagers, myself guilty, spend most of their time on social media and texting friends, we often forget to look up and just smile at people.

The language barrier between us and the children was easily overcome and anything essential was often conveyed by just using sign language. But most of the time, particularly when playing with the younger children, there was just silence. A comfortable silence, where no one felt the need to talk yet there was a mutual understanding present. Other times, the air was filled with the sound of screaming and shrieking children being chased or tickled - I did not mind either.

Yet, since coming back to KEGS, I have noticed that most of us are greatly uncomfortable with silence, myself included, often seeking the solace of our phones when placed in those situations. I have not been able to figure out what causes the difference. It might just be the people.

Hearing the individual stories of specific children from Cecilia - the social worker, was really eye-opening but at the same time incredibly sad. Right until the end, it never ceased to amaze me how those children were always so happy with a past like theirs. There have been children there who have been abandoned and left to fend for themselves by their parents, yet they hold no grudges and seem to be so happy and grateful for the life that they have been given. They feel so lucky to just be alive. Something that I certainly do not think about and just take for granted. I just assume that for me tomorrow is a given, I will wake up and I will still be here. However, they don’t. There is so much that we can learn from them.

Money raised in memory of Zeynep Pattie, a KEGS student who tragically died in 2017 and who visited Kenya earlier in that year, has paid for two houses built at New Hope’s Grandmothers’ Village. (see photos right)

This money came from many people, but with a significant amount given by KEGS students who donated as part of the price of their Charity Ball tickets.

The opening of the two houses in February of this year was a very emotional occasion, but also uplifting in the way the Kenyans celebrated Zeynep’s life with singing and prayer. New Hope has identified a needy family which has moved into one of the houses. Francis, his wife Damaris and their three children Marion, Jane and Edward lived along the railway line, near the grandmothers’ village as seen in this photo (left). Compare the standard of the houses and you will understand how important these villages are in offering the poorest people the security of having a
safe, watertight and comfortable home of their own. Further donations from
the fourteen students who visited the project this year will pay for furniture
and electricity. The family will live there temporarily, until the time when
children from New Hope reach an age when they can move in and look after
themselves and their wider family. The other house is now occupied by John
Mburu who has lived at New Hope since a young age. He will share with
another young man until he finishes college and, hopefully, starts a family of
his own.

In a rather strange change of subject, although firmly linked with New Hope,
I’m now going to talk about underwear! Hopefully, students will have told you
about my Brief History of Underwear assemblies which have launched the
KEGS Say Pants to Poverty appeal. When I asked Anne Chege, the founder of
New Hope, which items are most needed by the children there, she was
quick to say that underwear would be most useful. In my assembly I asked the
students to think about how many pairs of underpants they own? How often
do they change their underwear? How is their underwear washed? Would
they ever wear second-hand underwear? Many children in Kenya do not have
the luxury (although we would not consider it such) of more than one pair of
pants. Pants are often washed at the same time as bathing, then wrung out and
put back on damp. Many boys and girls do not wear underwear and many girls
are not able to go to school when they have their periods – they often don’t
have sanitary protection, but also don’t have underwear. We are asking that
students, possibly through their parents, buy a pack of pants – for girls or boys
from toddler to teenage – and bring them to school and the collection boxes
in the Darwin Centre, reception and outside the staff room. Girls are also
asked to contribute new or gently used bras to our appeal. We will then ship
them out to New Hope allowing all the children who live there to be able to
do what we do as a matter of course – put on our own clean and comfortable
pair of pants.

You will know that our trips to Kenya are in partnership with Sue Smith and
the charity Hand in Hand. Sue’s husband Grant has recently written a book
‘The Accidental Social Entrepreneur’ (see below) which is available to buy at
www.muddypearl.com or at Foyle’s. I was privileged to be asked to speak at
the book’s launch at Foyle’s in Chelmsford and here is a snippet of what I said:

The book is …. about resilience, faith in bucketful, optimism and determination, and
what also runs through it is a deep love for and understanding of the countries Grant
works in – an understanding that comes from immersion in the real life of the
country and its people. The book takes us through the formation of Hand in Hand
and to the complementary vision of Grant (and Sue) in supporting others to ‘build
their own pond’. For someone like me with no business acumen or interests, the book
gives a real insight into how to build the relationships on which businesses thrive (or
sometimes topple). It’s about ethical, moral business practices of course, but could
just as easily be read by KEGS Economics students as by those interested in the
charitable, faith-based aspect of the business (and shows that the two are absolutely
not exclusive!).

The book is also available to borrow from the school library and is a must
read for those interested in charity, business, entrepreneurship.

A huge thank you to all students, parents and friends of KEGS who have
supported Mogonjet school and New Hope Children’s Home over the
years. Year 11 students will be receiving a letter in their sixth form
induction pack regarding next year’s trip (approx. 8 to 19 February
2020) and I look forward to another fantastic visit to see our friends in
Kenya.
From the Head

Tom Carter

This edition of the newsletter brings a wonderful range of reports together. Our partnership with Mogonjet School in Kenya is now well established - this year’s visit by sixth formers was as successful as ever, as was the “mini marathon” which took place at the end of May to raise funds. This summer also brought a feast of artistic endeavours: the concert was the last chance to hear Jamie Cochrane performing as a KEGS student (playing Chopin’s first ballade), the Art Exhibition was a lovely opportunity to take the time to study and admire the work of our artists, and then a succession of drama afternoons and evenings in the new McCallum-Rich Theatre gave students in different year groups a chance to star and be recognised for their efforts. Drama, Art and Music are certainly all thriving at KEGS, and the various reports of theatre trips in this newsletter help to demonstrate this.

The summer also brings the cricket season - and it was a pleasure to be able to see some of the Essex Cup semi-final which our Year 10 team narrowly lost. It’s a real credit to them that they got so far in the competition. KEGS is also known for its prowess at chess - and this year we again made it to the national finals, finishing sixth in the country - an impressive result.

This year also brings some notable anniversaries - and it’s excellent to see the report about 25 years of the DoE scheme at KEGS. It provides numerous young people with wonderful life experiences. Another anniversary for 2019 is the 60th of our exchange programme with the Wirttemberg Gymnasium in Stuttgart. I was honoured to be invited to visit Stuttgart for a few days to celebrate this - and it is certainly emphatically the case that our Year 8 pupils on the exchange represented KEGS extremely well.

The end of the academic year also brings departures - of students and of staff - I am most grateful to all departing colleagues, who have served the school, in some cases for many years. I wish them all well for the future. I am also most grateful to several long serving members of the PA, whose sons are now leaving the school - we will miss them, but I hope the PA will continue to do its excellent and vital work for the school, which of course included the thoroughly enjoyable Summer Festival this term.

Captain’s Blog

Charlie Abbott, School Captain

This term has seen another season of exams - GCSEs for Year 11s, A Levels for Year 13s and numerous internal exams for all the other years. While the exam period is the most stressful time of the year (for most!), this has certainly not diminished the range and quality of events which have taken place this term.

Also, with even more sporting and musical events still to come, it is clear that this collective enthusiasm will continue right up to the summer holidays! One highlight of this term has definitely been the Mogonjet Mini Marathon. Although the weather was not quite as good as previous years, students, parents, teachers and pets still came in their masses to race for their respective houses. After an hour or so of spirited and vibrant competition, Holland emerged victorious in the first big event of the house year! However, the Mogonjet Mini Marathon is not only important for the house competition, but also for the students and wider community at Mogonjet School in Kenya. All the money raised from the mini marathon will go towards Mogonjet, so everyone who took part can feel proud in the knowledge that they have helped to give young people the opportunities that we at KEGS take for granted.

Sports day was another notable event this term. Sadly, we were unable to hold the competition at Bedford Fields on a weekend, as has been customary. Instead it was held over the course of two days after school. However, it did not lack the usual enthusiasm that we have come to expect from sports day. Despite strong competition from all houses, including a strong performance from Strutt’s middle school contingent on the track, Holland won once again, with an exceptionally strong performance from Year 7. Sports day is always great fun to participate in, and it was a joy to see so many promising young athletes this year. KEGS athletics is in good hands!

The Summer Fayre was also a great success, with a variety of stalls for all to enjoy. The Year 7 and 8 football tournaments were also hotly contested, which made for a very good watch! As well as this, we were also treated to some real talent in the Summer Concert, with brilliant performances from the Junior Orchestra, Jazz Band and Choir, which sang a selection of songs from Gilbert and Sullivan. The concert was completed by the last ever performance (in a KEGS uniform at least) from Jamie Cochrane on the piano. His stunning musicianship will be sorely missed. Also, on the theme of concerts, Interflow will be taking place on Thursday 18th July. Spearheaded by Intisar Chowdhury and Clara Marks (both in Year 12), the event promises music, dance and much more from a variety of different cultures all across the world! All proceeds will go towards BKN Memorial Hospital and Research Centre in Bangladesh. Doors will open at 18:30 and tickets are now available online at kegsinterflow@gmail.com

Come along to enjoy a showcase of the huge variety of talent KEGS has to offer, as well as to support such a fantastic cause! It is also time to say goodbye to the outgoing Year 13s, who have had such a positive influence on the school during their time here. I wish you all every success for the future.

Finally, I hope that everybody has a brilliant summer, and look forward to seeing you all next year!
Charities Week
Pranjal Pandey, Year 12

Every year, the KEGS Charities Committee runs a Charities Week to raise money for 3 charities, and this year’s Charities Week was no different. All members of the school got involved this year, from Year 7 to the staff, to show real enthusiasm and raise such a great amount of money for a good cause! On the last week of the Spring term, the whole school came together to raise an enormous £1898.77 for the three chosen charities: Young Minds, Lives Not Knives, and Kids Inspire.

Young Minds is a charity that works towards improving the wellbeing and mental health of young people and children in the UK. They provide help to young people, parents and professionals through resources on their website, training, and consultations.

The next charity we chose to support is Lives not Knives. Their aim is to create an awareness campaign to prevent teens from carrying a knife, with around 21,000 cases of possession of a knife last year, 21% of which were juveniles. LNK is now a national peace movement, supplying activities, talks, events and competitions to young people to encourage them to have fun without violence and create a sense of community youth can thrive in, while also educating teenagers and their parents about the growing knife crisis.

Our third charity, Kids Inspire helps disadvantaged young people turn their lives around and gives them back their future. They support young people across Essex who are at an educational, social and/or economic disadvantage resulting from trauma or emerging mental health issues by providing them, along with their parents and carers, with individual therapy, coaching, mentoring and group work.

Charities Week was kicked off to a great start with an amazing trolley dash tournament, courtesy of Tesco. From a classic lucky dip to a fun Nerf Shootout stall, the range of wonderful stalls run by Years 7, 8 and 9 in the Lower School Bazaar at Tuesday lunchtime were incredibly creative. On Wednesday, a lively crowd cheered on as sixth formers battled it out in a Superhero netball tournament, all dressed in their finest superhero gear. Thursday marked the dawn of a brand new Charities event that had never been seen before: Steele or no Steele: a lunchtime game show hosted by Mr Steele based on the famous Deal or No Deal. Friday brought a school favourite: the Staff Talent Show. Students from all years sat excitedly in the hall, listening to a great variety of musical talent from the likes of Mrs Wiltshire and Dr Perrott, and even a pre-recorded features from Mr Garcia and Mr Wells, who unfortunately weren’t able to attend. The show ended with a bang, as staff performed a flash mob finale dance.

The end of Charities Week saw the announcement of the clear victory of Year 12 in the Penny Wars competition, where year groups competed to gain points by donating copper coins and sabotage other year groups by donating silver coins or even notes under different year groups’ names, causing them to lose points. Also, many Easter egg prizes given to students and classes who won their respective events, and chocolate rewards aside, the real reward of the total money raised this year was revealed. With over £4,000 being raised in total in this academic year, it is safe to say that all students gave it their all to raise money for such a wonderful cause! We aim to keep up this fantastic result in next year’s Charities Week to continue this yearly tradition.
Superb student art on display at KEGS annual exhibition

Just a small selection of the superb artwork which was on display at our recent Art Exhibition. The event featured work from across the whole school.
On Friday 17 May, actors from the Young Shakespeare Company came into KEGS to perform scenes from William Shakespeare’s ‘Romeo and Juliet’ for the Year 10s currently studying it for GCSE English Literature.

The interactive workshop and their adaptation of the play in the Duffield Library were not only incredible and unique, but also gave us a brief outline of the plot of the play and how the characters were meant to be portrayed! We enjoyed watching the hilarious rehearsals and how the certain scenes, such as Romeo and Juliet’s first meeting, were acted out in many different ways and spoken in the original and modern versions of the texts! After seeing the performance, I now have a better understanding of the plot of the play than I already had!

Many thanks to the Young Shakespeare Company for coming in to do their interactive workshop and incredible performance and to Ms Collier and the rest of the English Department for organising everything!

A BREATH OF FRESH AIR ON THE 400 YEAR PLAY
BY UMAIR ASGHAR
The Young Shakespeare Company’s take on the classic story of Romeo and Juliet encapsulates the tragedy and comedy of the original, while providing a revised setting for the story to take place in, which is easily adapted towards a 21st century audience

The Company begins with a workshop on how actors perform and interpret the work of Shakespeare, and the interaction with the audience was quite effective in engaging them, especially due to the element of comical relief it also possessed. This interaction between the audience and actors also allowed for students to show their knowledge of the play, and the actors helped the students gain a better understanding of the play.

Firstly, the actors worked with a minimal amount of props, only utilising a bench in the middle, various costumes for the scenes, and other detrimental objects to the play, such as a knife, or the poison Romeo takes, and this successfully reflects how Shakespeare would have had to perform his plays, with no technological support or lighting and very few props, as he relied heavily on the actors’ performance, and his scripts full of rich imagery to describe his surroundings and, in the YSC’s performance, this was well done, as the actors’ brilliantly captured the characters of the play and, even with the reduction of props, it was still executed quite well and enjoyable for the audience.

However, there were some weak elements to their performance, such as the choice of music, since, in some places, it felt very out of place and didn’t fit well with the tone, and this sometimes led to a loss of immersion in the play. Furthermore, while the costumes, for the most part were quite fitting, during the ball scene, the ‘fancy dress’ that the actors bore also felt quite detached from the rest of the play and unnecessary at that. Another gripe with the play is that some actors seemed to overdo their part, and while it did stay true to the play and give off a sense of ‘bawdy’ from the appropriate characters, it still felt quite dissimilar from what Shakespeare had originally envisioned for the play.

The versatility that the actors provided was very impressive, as, the actor who played Mercutio and Juliet’s father seemed to excellently portray the character’s motives, reactions and emotions to the audience, and this was done well by all actors, however, I thought the actor who portrayed Mercutio deserved a special mention. Overall, all actors performed their roles incredibly effectively, however, some comical lines or jokes that they tried didn’t exactly land that well with the audience, and I thought that aspect of the play was also quite overdone.

All in consideration, YSC’s version of Romeo and Juliet is a well-rounded adaptation, with some flaws that do sometimes take away from the experience, but enjoyment is rarely hindered due to the gripping performance from the actors and the way the characters reacted to certain pivotal moments in the plot, which added on to the infamous tragic story of Romeo and Juliet. * * *
The McCallum-Rich Theatre is open for business!

We’re thrilled to announce that the McCallum-Rich theatre is open for business. Carved out of the former ‘new gym’ the theatre has been made possible by very generous donors. The main theatre area has been funded by Doug McCallum and the technical area by Louise and Peter Thornton.

Doug McCallum’s wish was that the theatre should be named in honour of his parents — his father, Bill McCallum who was Head of English from 1966 to 1995, and his mother, whose family name is Rich.

The theatre hosted its first productions last week – the Year 9 performance of Nadia Fall’s ‘Home’ and a ‘Night at the Musicals’. The official opening will be on Friday 13 September.

Year 8 trip to Les Miserables

Following Year 7’s successful trip to School of Rock in March, Year 8 enjoyed an equally successful visit to Les Miserables at the Queens Theatre in the West End in May.
Dylan and Shivam reach Cyber Discovery final

Dylan Mankin (Year 11) and Shivam Subudhi (Year 10) have made it through to the national final of the Cyber Discovery competition, a competition that has been running for around the last six months. This is a tremendous achievement and they have been invited to six-day residential camps at universities around the country where they will learn what a career in cyber security is really like and get free training.

The Cyber Discovery competition is part of the government’s Cyber Schools Programme, and it is an extracurricular learning programme for students aged 14-18 across the UK. Its goal is to ensure that many more people enter the cyber security profession in the coming years.

Visit by Dr Kevin Privett, eminent geologist

On Monday 1 July, we were honoured to welcome Dr Kevin Privett back to KEGS, 45 years since he was last on the school site as a student. In 2018, Dr Privett was awarded the prestigious Geological Society Glossop Medal for his work in the area of Engineering Geology. Despite living in South Wales, he made a special visit to meet today’s sixth form students, broadening their understanding of possibilities for their future and enhancing their knowledge. During lunchtime he gave a useful careers talk to those with an interest in geosciences and civil engineering; then the afternoon was spent with the geology Y12 class where he gave an in depth talk on landslide mechanics and the processes undertaken to understand geological issues (there might have also been some discussion on how cake can demonstrate such processes). This has set the students up very well for their Y13 unit in geohazards and we are grateful for his ongoing support. Incidentally, whilst a student at KEGS, he was taught by Ken Newman whose geology collection was generously donated to the school and is well used by students of all ages.

Music Congratulations

Tim Worrall, Director of Music

Congratulations to the following students who have achieved the following in their music grade exams.

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<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
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<tr>
<td>IMESH WIJESURIYA</td>
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The 2019 Carnegie Medal

**FARAZ GUL, YEAR 10**

As always, in the summer term, the Cilip Carnegie Medal took place. A longlist of 18 books was whittled down to eight shortlisted books which were:

A Skinful of Shadows by Frances Hardinge
The House with Chicken Legs by Sophie Anderson
The Land of Neverendings by Kate Saunders
Things a Bright Girl can do by Sally Nicholls
Bone Talk by Candy Gourlay
The Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo
Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds
Rebound by Kwame Alexander

We read as many of the eight as we could, had meetings on occasions to discuss the books and wrote reviews on the Carnegie website and KEGS library system. Finally, on Tuesday 18 June, the winner of the Carnegie Cilip Medal 2019 was The Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo, which I thought was the best book out of the eight! Although we could not watch the livestream announcement in the library as done before, due to the library being used for exams, Mrs Friel sent an e-mail to the Carnegie students about the winner! I thought The Poet X would win due to its thrilling theme and perfectly planned-out plot!

Geoscience club study school site

**LUCY FRYER, GEOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY TEACHER**

This year, Geoscience Club have had a particular focus on fieldwork around the school site. By conducting their own real fieldwork they have experienced the issues surrounding real data, both in terms of collecting it and in the analysis, and have been successful in developing a greater understanding of the geography and biology of their school site. For the first half of the year, they undertook the Royal Meteorological Society MetMark award which involved studying the microclimate of the school site through homemade rain gauges, anemometers, barometers and thermometers. The information was collated and written up as an online blog, with graphs being created to study patterns. The weather station provided by the Parents Association a few years ago was also utilised to compare student recordings with that of the station on the school roof. In March, we were proud to be awarded the MetMark.

Since Easter, the students have started a new study looking at the trees on the school site. There are three areas of focus for this:

- To calculate the carbon content of the trees (roots, trunk & crown)
- To study the health of the trees
- To look for any pollution indicators

Good progress has been made so far this term with the team compiling their own survey sheets using a mixture of questions from different Opal Surveys and then recording the details of all of the trees along the southern edge of the school site. So far, they have calculated that these trees alone contain 21 tonnes of carbon (equivalent to the weight of about four Asian elephants!). Anyone interested in joining the team would be very welcome…we meet in room 50 on Thursdays from 1pm.
Twenty five years of DofE at KEGS

Lucy Fryer, KEGS DofE Co-ordinator

DofE started at KEGS in 1994, and we are proud to say it is still going strong. On the 6-7 July, 26 year 10 students successfully completed their Bronze expedition in an excellent manner, impressing all those they met with their attitude and their skills that they had built up from a comprehensive training programme during the year. We are looking forward to their presentations in September which will draw on a range of experiences from writing poetry and creating artwork, to documenting pollution levels using lichen as indicators, to studying the history of the area by visiting key locations such as Great Bardfield church.

The Bronze training and expeditions this year utilised Bedford Fields (thanks to Mr Clarke), and we were grateful to be supported by the Old Chelmsfordians Association (with particular thanks to Mr Heseltine). Exploring the countryside local to key KEGS locations was a nice opportunity. Mr Lodge and the team at High Easter Village Hall (and village council), Gosfield Golf Club, Bardfield Garden Centre and Golden Grove campsite have also been very helpful to us this year in enabling us to undertake expeditions in areas less frequented by other groups and therefore providing a nicer environment for both students and staff.

The previous cohort have been particularly strong in their success rate and were awarded their certificates and badges at the Y11 leavers event in May. They not only completed their expeditions but also all three other sections (physical, skill, and volunteering) by the time they sat their GCSEs). These students were: Aamir Ali-Patel, Louis Caruana, Daniel Costin, Jacob Crook, Freddie Duke, James Golder, Oscar Harmer, Samuel Jasper, Shaarukkan Kankeyan, Leo Kim, Nikhil Kurien, Jacob Larcombe, Cho Man, Finn McHale, Zain Munshi, Mithun Muraleetharan, Sami Oztoprak, Rahul Patel, Andre Porter, Alex Read, Abhijeet Sajilal, Ben Thompson, and Peter Wheeler. Congratulations to all of these students and we look forward to supporting a number of you through your Gold award.

We have also seen success from our Gold award DofE participants with eight students achieving this since June last year: Arad Siabi, Joseph Penny, Daniel Burrows, Nicholas Sale, Julia Mikhailova, Katherine Buckley, Shantanu Awasthi, and Jasmina Haxhij. This level requires significant amounts of time with the longest section requiring 18 months of weekly or fortnightly commitment. The expeditions are also much longer at 4 days and in more difficult terrain. Therefore, to achieve this award is an impressive feat.

We are lucky to have an incredible wealth of experience and expertise within the DofE leaders team at KEGS. At the Essex county awards ceremony in January, Mr Chumbley was recognised for his 25 years volunteering and Mrs Turner and Ms Sharp for their 15 years. We are also grateful to Mr Murphy, Mr Garcia (& Nicholas Garcia), Dr Riley, Mrs Hockley, Mr Speakman, Mr Brown, Mr Sims, Ms Waite and Mr Worrall for giving up their time to join Miss Fryer in providing such high level training to our Bronze students this year. We will be sorry to say goodbye to Mr Murphy this year but are very grateful for all his help in recent years, supporting and inspiring many students to explore the countryside with confidence. Thank to all those who continue to support students in their efforts to complete their awards.
Twenty five years of DofE at KEGS

Bronze groups on their final expedition playing Kubb under the guidance of Mr Chumbley

Bronze students learn first aid skills

Dr Riley with a Bronze group at the start of the practice expedition.

My work experience at Morgan Stanley

Ria Hindocha, Year 12

I was one of five of my peers from KEGS who had the good fortune to have the opportunity to work at Morgan Stanley. Based in Canary Wharf, Morgan Stanley is an American multinational investment bank and financial services company. This work experience was for one week and was hosted by the Net South Asia team at Morgan Stanley.

The programme was designed to give the participants a good insight into the different roles at the bank. For instance, I shadowed managers in the operations, marketing and technology divisions. I especially enjoyed shadowing people on the trading floor as they worked at the forefront of the bank’s operations (the ‘cutting edge’ as they described it). Most of the desks had about five computers providing worldwide financial information, news and stock prices at one’s finger tips. The work that they did with international clients was very interesting.

We also had a motivational speaker talk to us about positivity and optimism, and how to become a more confident person which I found to be very inspiring. The experience also included fun aspects such as an ice breaker game, a banking quiz and a ‘build your own bank’ session. During the latter session, we were put into teams and had to make up our own operating bank including a name, logo and a slogan. My team came up with the best made-up bank and so we won! Unfortunately, there was no prize but it was a very enjoyable session and allowed us to demonstrate our team working skills.

The programme incorporated aspects on CV writing, interview skills and a session on demystifying the application and selection process. This was led by volunteers from the HR (Human Resources) department at Morgan Stanley.

We had speed networking and networking lunch sessions which entailed talking to different people who worked in various sectors of the bank. Each session lasted about two minutes before we moved on to next person. I was pretty overwhelmed and almost exhausted at the end of the hour. Nonetheless it was very informative and all the people working at Morgan Stanley were quite friendly. I immensely enjoyed the experience of meeting and talking to people from a wide variety of backgrounds.

We had many panel events in our agenda at Morgan Stanley. The topic of discussion was about women in finance and the secret of success. Apart from being able to relate to this from a female perspective, I found this event useful as it gave me the opportunity to talk to people from various divisions of the bank, of varying ages, levels of experience and at different points in their career paths. Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed my week at Morgan Stanley and returned to school with renewed zest. The experience was amazing, motivating and I learnt a lot. It definitely gave me food for thought to consider banking/business/finance as a career choice.
Having recently been elected to the Young Essex Assembly as a youth councillor, the youth council organisation for Essex, as well as having been elected to Youth Parliament as a Member of Youth Parliament (MYP), I have been involved in many projects, such as helping to put an end to knife crime and educating young people on life skills and informing how to independently and successfully lead their lives (curriculum for life). Being elected to these organisations has been an honour for me and I am working towards improving the lives of young people in Essex and young people countrywide.

An example of the actions I am currently taking would be being a member of the sub group in the Young Essex Assembly for the Curriculum for Life project, which we, after discussing what the youth of Essex wish for and need the most, have decided will be the main countywide project we will be focusing on for our two year terms. In the sub group for this project we are currently making an action timeline on what we will do to achieve the goal of educating the youth of Essex on life skills. Among the ways we have decided to achieve this is by creating leaflets and convenient booklets containing information on the topic, creating media to further educate young people on the topic (e.g. websites, videos, etc.) and by attempting to create an almost standard curriculum for PSHE in Essex by giving resources and lesson plans on several PSHE topics to schools, after collaborating with the necessary organisations to make these resources. It looks certain at this point that this project will be a great success in extending the knowledge of young people in Essex on this topic!

One of the issues I have been addressing in Youth Parliament includes tackling the issue of knife crime, which is one of the main issues the Youth Parliament is going to tackle this term with it having been voted as the biggest issue facing young people in the whole country according to the Make Your Mark national survey. Among the ways I have been addressing this issue is by giving my input in an All-Party Parliamentary Group on Youth Affairs meeting on knife crime in the Houses of Parliament, where I met with many MPs and people of influence and discussed the grievances young people affected by knife crime face as well as ideas on how to tackle the issue, such as by counter-acting gang culture, removing instigating posts promoting gang violence on social media and by creating opportunities as well as enhancing the quality of life for young people in deprived areas, by, for example, reopening youth centres. Many more actions are yet to come in this project, and the actions of myself and the Youth Parliament is already having an effect, with MPs noting the suggestions made by myself and my colleagues in the Youth Parliament.

In these roles, I have been able to contribute greatly to the youth in society and voice their opinion. This has also enhanced my debating, public speaking and general knowledge skills and has given me many opportunities. Many other projects are also ongoing and upcoming in both the Young Essex Assembly and the Youth Parliament, such as addressing mental health issues and aiding the homeless, and if anyone wishes for any new issues or ideas to be raised by myself then please feel free to speak to me at time or you can email me about anything you want me to bring up on my school email address, ppandey_e15@kegs.org.uk

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**Chess team at national schools championship final**

**Tim Worrall**

Many congratulations to the KEGS Chess team who finished in sixth place at the National Schools Championship final which was held at Uppingham School in Leicestershire in early July.

This year’s event attracted 142 teams from 90 schools, with the final 16 emerging over the year from knockout rounds. At the final the teams played four games over two days with an hour on the clock and an increment of ten seconds per move.

The team put in some stunning performances and won against Queen Elizabeth’s Hospital School and Brighton College, were narrowly defeated by hot tournament favourites, the Royal Grammar School Guildford, and lost to the Royal Grammar School Newcastle.

The team had some lucky breaks and at the end of Ryan Smith’s game, his opponent (playing white) resigned, desperately short of time, but didn’t realise he had mate in three moves (right)!

This was also the last tournament for Year 13s Daniel Gallagher and Scott Shelley and I would like to thank them for their sterling service to KEGS chess. The quality of Daniel and Scott’s chess has put KEGS into the finals for four years in a row - and we will miss them!

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**Youth Parliament Update**

**Prajwal Pandey, Year 10**

Having recently been elected to the Young Essex Assembly as a youth councillor, the youth council organisation for Essex, as well as having been elected to Youth Parliament as a Member of Youth Parliament (MYP), I have been involved in many projects, such as helping to put an end to knife crime and educating young people on life skills and informing how to independently and successfully lead their lives (curriculum for life). Being elected to these organisations has been an honour for me and I am working towards improving the lives of young people in Essex and young people countrywide.

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YOUSEF WINS JACK PETCHEY AWARD
Many congratulations to Yousuf Shahabuddin of Year 8 who won a Jack Petchey Award in recognition of his achievements and outstanding contribution to the 4th Ilford North Scouts group. Since joining Scouts when he was in Year 5, Yousuf has been hiking, kayaking, climbing, ice skating, go-karting, done map reading and night navigation and is also a Patrol Leader. In the photo with Yousuf are Colin Wreyford, District Commissioner and Cliff Everitt, Group Scout Leader, 4th Ilford North.

CHRISTOPHER TAKES BRONZE AT THE KARATE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS!
Christopher Stewart, 8A, travelled to Bratislava in Slovakia in late June to represent England in the karate World Championships. He was one of over 2,300 competitors from 51 countries taking part.

Christopher was selected to compete in three categories. In his team fighting, Christopher’s team got all the way through to the semi-finals where they went out to the eventual World Champions. They were extremely proud to be awarded bronze medals and the first of those to be won by the England squad competing at the tournament.

In his individual kata (performance of a set routine), Christopher took seventh place, landing him within the top ten. In his individual fighting, he made it all the way into the top 16 of a really large group of competitors. He produced some amazing double point scoring head kids, one of which was picked up and put onto the championship’s video highlights of the entire tournament. It was an amazing experience and Christopher looks forward to going to the next World Championships, which will be hosted in London.

ORIENTEERING AWARDS FOR MATTHEW
Matthew Wadey (Y11) has continued to find success in orienteering competitions, regionally and nationally. In just 18 months he has progressed to the highest technical difficulty courses and came 4th in the Men’s 18 Short class at the Jan Kjellström International middle distance event. Regionally, he took 2nd place in the Year 11-13 Boys class (1st Y11 student) in the Essex and Suffolk Schools Orienteering League, and on the 7th July was part of the winning junior team (Essex Stragglers) in the national Yvette Baker Shield competition, held at the Sandringham estate.

KUMITE SUCCESS FOR OSHIN
Congratulations to Oshin Singh, Year 9, who has won 3rd place in the JKA National championship in the Brown/Black Belt Boys individual kumite 13-15 yrs category.

MS COLLIER PRESENTS AT PRESTIGIOUS SYMPOSIUM
On 3 June, Ms Collier, our Head of English, presented at the University of Kent’s 3rd Annual Americanist Symposium. Her paper, titled ‘The photographic medium and the visualisation of the mask in Tar Baby’, formed a semiological reading of Toni Morrison’s literature, using the theory of Roland Barthes to explore the predetermined essence of slavery in the photographic image. The paper forms a part of the second chapter of her thesis which she intends to submit later this year and is under review for publication.

JIM PERRY SMASHES 100K LONDON TO BRIGHTON CHALLENGE
Congratulations to Catering Manager/Cookery Teacher, Jim Perry, who completed the 100km London to Brighton Challenge in May. The course took him up and down hills, through woodland, along footpaths and over stiles. He finished in 15 hours 50 minutes, which allowed him to qualify as a runner. Jim reports that at some points it was more like an obstacle course than a run but he thoroughly enjoyed it and highly recommend the experience. Thank you to everyone who has supported Jim, and he and his running partner Adam have raised over £4800 for Breast Cancer Now!
Staff Farewells

The end of the school year always see the departure of some members of staff. Thank you to all of these staff members for their contribution to KEGS and our best wishes to them all for the future …

Mark Boost
Mark Boost came to KEGS in September 2005 to join the Technology Department. With a BA and MA in Industrial Design, Mark had spent time teaching in New Zealand, before returning to the UK to take up the position at KEGS. Throughout his time with us, Mark has been a popular figure amongst both students and staff, and he has, in particular, shared his interest in films, through a lunchtime club. He has now chosen to relocate to a different part of the country, and is moving on to work at John Masefield School in Herefordshire.

Sarah Bridge
Following a degree from Durham, a year travelling and working in schools overseas, and then a website editorial role, Sarah Bridge joined us as an unqualified teacher in September 2016. She very rapidly achieved qualified teacher status and went on to be promoted to Second in the English Department in September 2018. She has combined a close attention to detail with a dedication to her classes, and she has also found time to run various trips and share the responsibility for co-ordinating the student charities committee. She has now chosen to relocate to the North of England and will be taking up a position at Dame Allan’s School, as well as starting on a Masters Degree at Durham.

David Greenwood
David Greenwood joined KEGS as Head of English in 1995, having previously taught at a school in Cambridge, following his degree and PhD at Cambridge University. For 23 years, David led the KEGS English department, co-ordinating a diverse range of colleagues, and achieving in some years some of the best GCSE and A results in the country. For a brief period, David shared the Head of Department role, whilst he took on an outreach role as an “AST”, and he has played a very significant role within KEGS in promoting educational research, and giving significant input into the Leading Edge specialism and the work with other schools in the Camstar consortium. He pioneered the taking of the Pre-U at KEGS by launching it in the English Department, again achieving some outstanding results. In September 2018 he decided to relinquish the leadership of the department and go part-time, and in May 2019 he retired from the school after nearly 24 years of service. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

Janine Haagman
Janine Haagman joined the Science Department in September 2016 as a Chemistry Technician. Janine brought a wealth of experience to the role, having previously worked as a Science Technician at Great Baddow High School, and prior to having her family, had worked at the South African National Blood Transfusion Service as a phlebotomist, recruiter and trainer. Janine left KEGS in May to take up a new role as a Science Technician at Chelmsford College and she left with our thanks and very best wishes.

Kate Knight
Kate Knight joined KEGS 17 years ago as an Art Technician and has made an invaluable contribution not only to the Art Department but also to the making of whole school displays. A talented artist and musician in her own right KEGS has benefited hugely from her creativity, skill and quiet efficiency. She will be sorely missed as a valued colleague and a dear friend!

David Murphy
David Murphy joined the English Department in September 2016, having previously taught at Langdon Academy in East London. In three years, he has made a notable and significant contribution to the extra-curricular life of the school, as an officer in the CCF and with DoE expeditions, through organising public speaking competitions, and by volunteering for a wide range of trips, both in this country and abroad. He is known amongst colleagues for his thoughtfulness and kindness to all. He has now decided to seek new challenges outside teaching, and we wish him every success for the future.

Stephen Page
Stephen Page came to KEGS in September 2017 to take up the position of Second in Department, having previously taught at schools in Coventry and Warwick. With a first class degree from Queen Mary, London and a Masters from UCL, he brought a strong academic background, as well as substantial experience marking for the Edexcel exam board. Outside of school, he is a keen sportsman, counting running and skiing amongst his interests. At KEGS he was well respected by colleagues, and we would have hoped that stayed with us longer, but he left in April 2019 to take up a promotion to Head of Department at All Saints School, where he actually initially did some of his teacher training.

Janet Pearson
Janet Pearson came to KEGS in September 2004 to join the Chemistry Department. With a doctorate from Imperial College, Dr Pearson was eminently suited to join a department full of similarly highly qualified staff, and her subject expertise and dedication has been valued by staff and students throughout her time at KEGS. She stepped in to cover the Head of Department role during the 2010-11 year, but from September 2012 decided to cut her hours to 4 days per week. She again helped lead the department during 2015. She has now decided to retire from teaching and we wish her a long and happy retirement.
Staff Farewells

Lorraine Purkiss
With a degree from Oxford and a successful career in finance behind her, Lorraine Purkiss retrained to be a teacher and joined the staff at KEGS in September 2006 as an English teacher. She taught English for eight years, bringing deep subject knowledge to her lessons. She was promoted to various roles, including within the pastoral system. In September 2014, Lorraine took on the position of School Business Manager – which was an opportunity to use both her business experience and her understanding of education. She has been utterly committed to the school and her role in writing the Sports Hall bid and co-ordinating the build has left a lasting and huge legacy to KEGS. Remarkably, throughout her time as Business Manager, she continued to teach English, and we will miss her versatility very much. We are extremely grateful for all that she has done for KEGS and wish her the very best for her relocation to Holland.

Deborah Ryley
Deborah Ryley came to KEGS in January 1998, having taught at Felsted and in Japan, and before that having read English at Oxford University and spent time working for the BBC. Throughout her time at KEGS, Mrs Ryley has had a reputation for high standards and excellence, and many hundreds of pupils have benefited from her deep subject knowledge and dedication. Over a period of more than 21 years, she has brought her expertise to a range of areas in the English Department, and within the whole school and has given her time unstintingly to pupils needing extra help. Mrs Ryley is now retiring from teaching, and we wish her a long and happy retirement.

Lea Root
Lea Root joined KEGS in January 2019 to cover a one term paternity absence in the History Department. We were delighted to find such an experienced teacher for a relatively short cover position, and also very pleased when she agreed to continue for a second term in order to cover a one term gap in Geography caused by the departure of Stephen Page at Easter. She leaves us at the end of the summer term, and we are most grateful for the time she has given to KEGS.

Kirsten Smith
Kirsten Smith came to KEGS in September 2012 having previously taught at Brentwood County High School. She has been a dedicated and much-liked member of the Physics Department, as well as an enthusiastic supporter of the broader cultural life of the school, particularly when it comes to music. For personal family reasons she reduced her hours to part time in September 2018, and she has now decided to leave her position. We hope that she may wish to return at some future point.

Diary Dates

**Thursday 18 July** – Year 8 reports published
**Friday 19 July** – Last day of school year
**Monday 22 & Tuesday 23 July** – Non pupil days
**Wednesday 24 July-Friday 30 August** – Summer Holiday
**Thursday 15 August** – A Level Results Day
**Thursday 22 August** – GCSE Results Day
**Monday 2 September** – Non Pupil Day
**Tuesday 3 September** – Year 7 & Year 12 Induction Day
**Wednesday 4 September** – First day of term for rest of school
**Friday 6 September** – Student individual photographs
**Monday 9 September** – Welcome to Year 12 evening 18:30-20:00
**Tuesday 10 September** – Parents Association meeting 19:30
**Tuesday 1 October** – Non pupil day
**Tuesday 8 October** – Parents Association AGM & meeting 19:30
**Wednesday 9 October** – Year 13 parents evening

HAVE YOU GOT NEWS FOR US?
NEWSLETTER 1
PUBLICATION DATE:
MONDAY 21 OCTOBER
All copy should be sent to the
KEGS News Editor Lindsey Thompson
(lthompson@kegs.org.uk) by 10:00 on
MONDAY 14 OCTOBER 2019
From the Parents Association

The Summer Festival, held on Saturday 6 July, was another huge success and has raised £2100 for the school. We would like to thank all the wonderful volunteers, everyone who donated prizes or food to be sold, everyone who attended the event, and all those who bought raffle tickets.

Three key members of the PA team are leaving this year, after seven years of incredible service and we would like to say thank you to Linda Nolan, Gillian Romang and Julie Harper who have done so much to support the PA, and the school. You will all be greatly missed!

Winners of the Grand Raffle were:

- Jack Dobre: Apple AirPods
- Robert Furness: £160 Barrett & Coe Photography Voucher
- Gillian Romang: £100 Red Letter Day voucher
- Harry Bates: £50 amazon Gift Voucher
- Lisa Harris: £40 Voucher The Lion Inn
- Angela Sumpton: Tiptree Tea Room Voucher
- Thomas Yardley: Café on the Water Voucher
- Rafe Louis: 2 x Dominos Pizza Vouchers
- Samaksh Sirohi: Lunch at the Cuckoo, Radley Green
- Tony Plaw: Essex Cricket Voucher
- A Walker: Pakwaan Indian Meal Voucher
- Angela Hockley: £25 Westfield Voucher
- Vihandu Katugampola: Janssen Cosmetics
- Rodrigo Sanchez: Great Britain Biscuit Tin
- Linda Nolan: Hotel Chocolat salted caramel vodka & cookbook
- Thomas Morgan: Red Wine Belgian chocolates
- Nithya Madhavan: Blag Board Game