

# THE ILEX



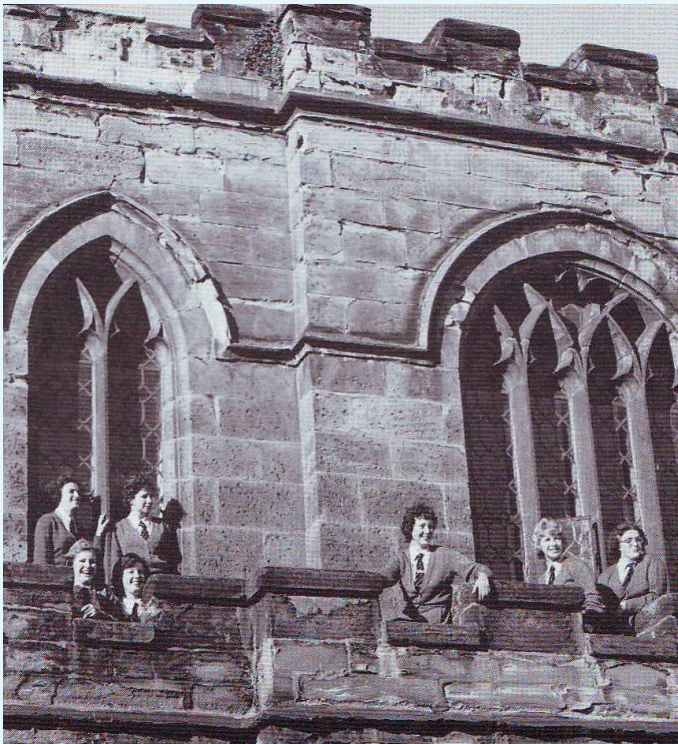
King's High School



LANDOR ASSOCIATION

[www.landorassociation.co.uk](http://www.landorassociation.co.uk)  
[www.warwickfoundationconnect.com](http://www.warwickfoundationconnect.com)

Autumn 2025 No. 137



## Welcome from our Landor Association President



**It gives me great pleasure to welcome all of you who make up the large and disparate body that comprises the Landor Association to the Autumn 2025 edition of the Ilex.**

It is such a joy and a privilege to be encouraged to continue our association with the wonderful

King's High. For many of us this goes on years after our regular association with the school has morphed into different phases of our lives: future careers, relocations in the UK or abroad, old girls becoming parents, parents becoming grandparents, retirement and so forth. What remains and what binds us together, is an enduring link with a school that has played a significant part in all of our lives.

At the Founders and Benefactors' Service in May we had the pleasure of welcoming two new Fellows to the Association, Tim Satchell and Helen Owen, in recognition of the significant contribution they have made to the life of the school. Meeting for services in St Mary's Church is a time for a certain nostalgia with the memories of countless times of celebration and thanksgiving that have gone before. It is also a

time to reflect, a chance to enjoy the continuum as a new generation of Head Teachers and staff play their part in the present and future success of King's High and of course, as always, the contributions of the girls are the high spot. In the last edition of the Ilex an exchange between Richard Nicholson, Foundation Principal and one of the governors caught my eye. It neatly encapsulates why such occasions are important and the underlying philosophy of what I believe we are about, "balancing tradition and heritage with innovation. Successful institutions learn to respond to the times in which they find themselves safe in the knowledge that each successive generation has drawn strength from the past. This gives them both the foundation and the confidence to plan for the future."

Reading and listening to the daily news may have made us feel that the future of Independent Education has been under threat as never before. To cheer you up may I suggest flicking through the Summer Edition of King's High News on the school website. It is wonderful reading. Our school is flourishing, the range of opportunities is quite dizzying, the accomplishments of the girls and their zest for life are invigorating and, quite rightly, the accolades and awards keep coming. We have a school to be proud of so keep in touch and come and visit when you can.

**Jane Marshall**

President of the Landor Association

Former Parent and Chair of Governors of King's High

## Upcoming dates for the diary

There are many opportunities to connect in person during the year, including those listed below.

### Cross Country

Sat 13 Sept 2025

King's High alumnae are invited to join OW runners for a cross-country race across Wimbledon Common. See page 9 for details.

### Alumnae in Hong Kong and Dubai

Sat 20 Sept and Fri 7 Nov 2025

King's High alumnae in Hong Kong and Dubai are warmly invited to connect.

### KHS Former Staff Lunch

October date to be confirmed

### Landor Coffee Morning

Sat 22 Nov 2025, 10.00-12.00 – King's High Auditorium

Anyone with links to King's High School is very welcome to join us for coffee and a chance to explore the archives on display. Please contact [sa.whitehouse@warwickschools.co.uk](mailto:sa.whitehouse@warwickschools.co.uk) if there is anything specific you would like see.

### King's High and Warwick Prep's Landor Association Carol Service

Thurs 11 Dec 2025, 19:00 – St Mary's Church

### Recent Leavers' Drinks

Tues 16 Dec 2025, 17:00-19:00 – Venue to be confirmed

Catch up with fellow recent leavers and enjoy complimentary festive drinks followed by a card-payment bar.

### Warwick Prep Former Staff Lunch

February date to be confirmed

### OGA Lunch

Sat 21 March 2026 – King's High School

### Landor Lecture

Spring date to be confirmed

### 1966, 1976, 1986, 1996, 2006 and 2016 Leavers Anniversary Reunions

Sat 13 June 2026, 14:00-17:30 – King's High School

For details and updates on all events see [www.landorassociation.co.uk/events](http://www.landorassociation.co.uk/events)

## Keeping connected

The Alumni and Development team is keen to help foster connections and engagement through events such as reunions (All the fives pp.4-5), lunches, lectures and meet ups (London Drinks p.6). In this edition of The Ilex we give a roundup of activities from the last six months which we hope gives a flavour of how alumnae and members of the Landor Association are continuing to be part of our much-loved school's story.

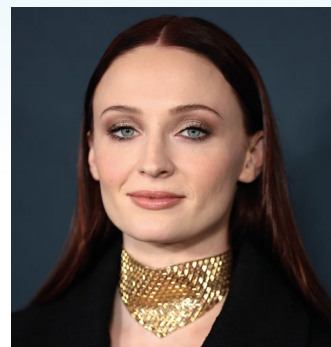
We were honoured to welcome back alumnae Liz Hewer (KHS 1988-95) as our guest speaker who inspired the students at the Sixth Form Prize Giving in July (p7).

King's High School continues to be recognised for its excellence through awards for the school, staff and individual students (p8). On pages 10 and 11 we feature alumnae Sarah Hosking MBE (KHS 1952-59) who has been recognised for her charity work and Christie Cozad Neuger (KHS 1964-65) whose generous donation towards the school library continues to inspire our current students in the Creative Arts.

## A taste of home

We're inviting readers to share memorable places from their time at King's High School. We heard Sophie Turner (KHS 2007-13) tell fans of her love for local Warwickshire sausages in a podcast, and asked Ali Hawkesford-Quickfall (KHS 1993-98) if she could provide memories of Eastgate for our feature on pages 14-15. If there is somewhere you'd like us to highlight, please let us know by emailing [sa.whitehouse@warwickschools.co.uk](mailto:sa.whitehouse@warwickschools.co.uk).

During a podcast for Waitrose, King's High alumnae and actor Sophie Turner spoke enthusiastically to Nick Grimshaw and Michelin-star chef Angela Hartnett about one of her tastes from home. Raving about her love for sausages, Sophie gave a special shout-out to her dad's local butcher Steve 'Stevie' Quigley of Lillington. Steve is well-known in the area for his sausages, producing up to 2000lbs of them a week on the premises and up to 10,000lbs at Christmas. According to Steve's son Ryan, favourite flavours include plain pork, pork and chive, leek and apple, tomato, Cumberland and chilli. The full interview can be found here: [@dish\\_podcast](https://www.instagram.com/dish_podcast)



Sophie Turner



Steve Quigley pictured with his famous sausages and (from left) fellow butchers Ryan, Michael and Ben

## Bursary boost propels students to international success



We have a strong overseas community of former King's High students, like Leah Townsend (KHS 2012-19), who works in technology recruitment. Through a series of personalised videos, Leah and others were able to share with donors the positive impact that accessing a King's High education has made. See page 16 to read more about Leah and opportunities to help support the bursary scheme.

## Networking platform

Warwick Foundation Connect is an online networking platform exclusively for former students of any school within our Foundation family; King's High, Warwick, Kingsley, Warwick Juniors and Warwick Prep.

Through the network, KHS alumnae can re-connect with fellow former students anywhere in the world through geographical groups, professional networks, decade and year groups, and specialist interest groups.

Sign up at [www.warwickfoundationconnect.com](http://www.warwickfoundationconnect.com)  
Please also take a moment to update your details at [www.landorassociation.co.uk/update](http://www.landorassociation.co.uk/update)



## Thanksgiving

Three school friends and their teachers were thrilled to reconnect at a special Warwick Schools Foundation Thanksgiving Chapel Service on 3 July which celebrated our links and relationship with the town of Warwick, and included a dedication of a plaque for Ralph Thornton (WS staff 1948-89), who passed just after his 100th birthday. At school together, Letitia Hammon (KHS 1956-63), Carol Lane (KHS 1956-62), Henrietta Cooke (KHS 1955-63), flanked by their teachers Janet Wilson (Former staff 1957-64) and Thelma Dawkes (Former staff 1958-66). We were also delighted that Janet and Thelma made the reunion – see pages 4 and 5.



Janet, Letitia, Carol, Henrietta and Thelma

Please update your details at [www.landorassociation.co.uk/update](http://www.landorassociation.co.uk/update)

2025

# All the Fives

**100 former students returned to school on 14 June for their landmark Anniversary Reunions.**

Old Girl leavers from 1965, '75, '85, '95, 2005 and 2015 enjoyed an afternoon reconnecting and spending time together. It was wonderful to also welcome back a number of former teaching staff. Special thanks to our students for their tours of the school, showing the facilities and opportunities enjoyed by students today,

and giving them the opportunity to view many of our archives and reminisce about their own school days.

Regional and overseas Old Girls' groups regularly connect and meet, both informally and formally.



*All the fives!*



*2005 leavers*



*1985 leavers*



*Drinks on arrival*



*Spotting old friends*



*Lunch is served*

**Our 2026 Anniversary Reunions take place on Saturday 13 June 2026. Please save the date!**



Dr Steve Burley with former staff Janet Wilson (KHS Staff 1957-64) and Thema Dawkes (KHS Staff 1958-66)



2015 leavers



1965 leavers



1975 leavers



1995 leavers



Celebrating in the sun



Cheers to a great day

# 2025 London Drinks

Great to see former students of King's High for this summer's Warwick Schools Foundation London Drinks.



*Charlotte Stock and Philippa Twohig-Howell*



*Emily Wilson, Becca Callender, Euan McGarr, Oliver Murden*



*Allie Weaving and Lizzie Stack*



*Melanie Norton, Louise Hunt, Philip Hunt*



*Catherine Bott, Melanie Norton, Jeanie Harrison*



*Sophie Evans and her father Andrew Evans*



*Jenny Marsh and Georgie Fellows*



*Sophie Edwards and Grace Griffiths*

2025

# A celebratory end to the term at King's High School's Prize Giving

King's High was delighted to welcome back alumna Liz Hewer as guest speaker at Prize Giving in July.

Liz Hewer (Warwick Prep and KHS 1988-95) has just taken up the role of High Mistress of St Paul's Girls' School, having been Head of St George's since September 2016. After attending Warwick Prep and King's High School in Warwick, she went on to Jesus College, Cambridge to study Geography and later complete her PGCE. At Cambridge, she was Captain of the Cambridge University Women's Hockey Club, gained three Full Blues for hockey and played for the British Universities. She also gained two Half Blues for cricket.

Liz has taught Geography, coached hockey, netball and tennis, sung in choirs and led outdoor activities at Bedford School, Marlborough College and the Royal Grammar School in Guildford. Prior to joining St George's, Liz spent ten years at nearby St Mary's Ascot where she was a Geography teacher, Housemistress, Director of Studies and latterly Pastoral Deputy Head for seven years. Outside St George's, Liz is Chair of the Girls' Schools Association Boarding Committee and an experienced school Governor and ISI Inspector.



Sixth Form 2024-25. This photograph has been reproduced by kind permission of Gillman & Soame photographers and can be ordered online at <https://www.gsimagebank.co.uk/kingshighwarwick/t/kj7ux2025>



Head Master Dr Steve Burley with Liz Hewer



Liz Hewer at Prize Giving with Head Girl Joana Simango

## School News

# Tes Awards



Head Master Dr Steve Burley

King’s High was shortlisted in this year’s Tes Schools Awards – not just in one, but two categories: Independent Senior School of the Year and Headteacher of the Year (Independent).

The Tes Schools Awards, known as the ‘Oscars of education’ celebrate excellence right across the education sector. Head Master Dr Steve Burley, who has already been awarded the title of Best Head of a Public School in the Tatler Schools Guide 2025, said: *“It is an enormous privilege for King’s High to be shortlisted for Independent School of*

*the Year in the Tes Awards 2025 and with record exam results, it is clear that the school is a national leader in educational excellence. I am so fortunate to work with a superb team of colleagues, fantastic students and supportive families and we are all able to take great pride in these achievements.”*

### King’s High School Recent Achievements

Best Head of a Public School 2025 – Tatler

Record exam results for the third consecutive year

‘Significant strength’ for student changemaking – ISI Report 2025

National Award for Future Readiness – ISA

National Award for the Creative and Performing Arts – ISA

Tes Independent School of the Year – Finalist

Independent Girls’ School of the Year – Finalist

The Sunday Times’ Top Independent School for Academic Performance in Warwickshire and Worcestershire 2024



From left to right: Dr Steve Burley (Head Master), Mrs Shirley Watson, Senior Deputy Head and Deputy Head (Pastoral), Mrs Sarah Didlick, Deputy Head (Co-Curricular and Operations), Dr Philip Seal - Deputy Head (Academic) and Richard Nicholson (Foundation Principal)

## A fond farewell

Staff and students gave two much-loved members of staff a fond farewell at the end of last term.

After more than thirty years of exceptional service and shaping the lives of so many students – past and present – Mrs Shirley Watson, Senior Deputy Head and Deputy Head (Pastoral) and Mrs Sarah Didlick, Deputy Head (Co-Curricular and Operations), have retired. We thank them, wish them well and hope to see them soon at our future events.



Shirley Watson and Sarah Didlick

2025

## Going the extra mile

### Staff, alumni and students walk their way to major donations for charity

March and April certainly put a spring in the steps of King's High associates as staff and alumni took part in charity walking events in memory of much-admired science teachers, and pupils from Warwick Schools Foundation raised funds for ambulances to Ukraine.



Hannah Hillman

Alumnae Hannah Hillman took part in Myton Hospice's 10K Moonlit Walk in the grounds of Warwick Castle and the town, raising more than £200 – enough to fund 10 hours of specialist nursing care. Hannah completed the challenge in memory of her former teacher and Landor Association Fellow Jo Grant, who had inspired her in Biology lessons and whom she described as 'an amazing woman'.



Jo Grant

Only days later, on 6th April, a team of 13 from the King's High Science department strolled, sauntered and ran a combined 40 miles as part of the Coventry Way Challenge, raising more than £1,100. Walking in memory of Dr Andrew Grist, Head of Chemistry between 2007-2024, they donated the money to The Owls Trust, a small independent charity in North Wales where a plaque dedicated to the much-loved teacher has been displayed on the aviary of a Vermiculated Eagle Owl. Colleague Annabel Sims said: *"To call Andrew's teaching 'inspirational' is an understatement. His unique combination of chemical expertise, humour, singing and fancy-dress will never be equalled and those lucky enough to have experienced it will never forget it."*



Dr Andrew Grist



King's High staff put their best foot forward for walking challenge

### Ukraine has the use of two more ambulances thanks to Foundation students

On 29th April two ambulances were driven to Ukraine after pupils from King's High and Warwick raised £15,000 from a sponsored walk on 23rd March and other fundraising ideas.

Compelled by the country's need for emergency humanitarian support on the frontline, pupils also raised funds through home clothes day and doughnut sales, which was enough to purchase the two specialist vehicles which are now in use.

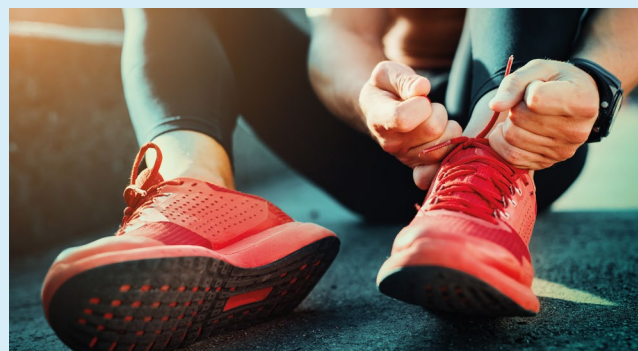


### Feeling inspired to dig out your trainers?

KHS runners are invited to join fellow Warwick Foundation Schools for the annual inter-schools Alumni Cross-Country Race over Wimbledon Common on Saturday 13 September 2025. The five-mile Thames Hare & Hounds Alumni Race starts at 15:00 sharp at the Thames HQ (SW15 3DU).

Entrants must be bona fide alumni of their school, but each team can include one current member of staff. There are separate scored competitions within the one race for teams of V40, 50, 60, and 65; Age Related, Open, Ladies; First finisher, first lady finisher. Guests are also welcome, entering their team as 'GUEST'.

If you would like to run please advise Sarah Whitehouse by Monday 8th September on [sa.whitehouse@warwickschools.co.uk](mailto:sa.whitehouse@warwickschools.co.uk)



## Creative writing

# King's High alumnae and staff ensure there is no writer's block for creative talent

We turn the spotlight on King's High staff and pupils past and present to show how a love of English Language continues to inspire generations of women.



Sarah Hosking (Picture courtesy of The Guardian)

Alumna Sarah Hosking (KHS 1952-59) who was awarded an MBE in the King's Birthday Honours List last year for her services to literature and the arts, and is an honorary fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, has been awarded a Times Sternberg Active Life Award in recognition of people over the age of 70 who make an

outstanding contribution to their community and public life.

Sarah set up the Hosking Houses Trust, which supports women writers, artists and creative practitioners, usually over the age of 40, who face some kind of need in the continued development of their work. This need might be personal, domestic, financial or political. One of the primary ways of supporting writers is through offering the use of an eighteenth-century cottage in Clifford Chambers which provides a welcome break from normal routine or disruption and the perfect setting for creative contemplation and focus. The charity is fundraising to purchase a second cottage. Sarah said: "HHT is rare in that it benefits creative clever women, from anywhere in the world who simply have too much to do and need a period of private time; it is unusual in that residencies are free, it is very rare that we sometimes offer bursaries but unique in that we welcome pets."

Sarah, whose memories of King's High have become warmer over the years, recalls her three English teachers with gratitude. However, at the time, she says she was an unsatisfactory pupil, and these patient women would probably be amazed at her subsequent successes.

Sarah has led an inspirational life, working as an artist and is a published author, has worked in the NHS as an interior and garden designer and was with the Special Hospitals Service Authority, developing the environment for long-term patients at Broadmoor and Ashworth Special Hospitals. In her retirement she obtained an MA in Shakespeare and Renaissance Cultural History from the Shakespeare Institute (Birmingham University) in 2005.

Sarah, has been inspired by Virginia Woolf's famous words:

**'A woman must have money and a room of her own if she is to write'**

Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*, Penguin Classics 1928



Christie Cozad Neuger

Another King's High alumna who shares the belief that women benefit from a space to encourage creativity is Christie Cozad Neuger (1964 – 1965) who, along with her husband Win, made a generous donation which helped to establish the school's library – a place of creativity and inspiration for the

students. In 1964, twelve-year-old Christie spent a year at King's High before returning to her native USA. That year made a huge impression and sowed the seeds of her future career, as well as a deep commitment to the wellbeing of girls and women. Christie completed a Bachelor's degree in English at the University of Minnesota. She had also been influenced by the Headmistress Miss Hare, who, in addition to being a strong female role model in an era when such people were rare, ignited Christie's lifelong interest in Biblical literature. Christie studied for her Master's degree in Divinity and became ordained as a United Methodist Minister. She is a professor and an accomplished author. Of her time at King's she said: "For the first time, I really experienced a sense of community and deep friendship. I learned what it was like to be in an all girls' environment and how important that was in developing a strong sense of self and a deep belief in my own gifts and abilities."

Sarah and Christie will be delighted to know that Miss Hare's inspirational teaching continues to be delivered at King's High by Head of English Dr Amy Galvin, who runs a Creative Writing Club. This has been hugely successful and this year saw student Lola win the prestigious Victoria Walkley Award which was created in loving memory of King's High student Vicki Walkley, who also loved the arts.

## Creative Writing Club at King's High



KHS student Lola said:  
*"I love creative writing at King's High as it allows me to explore a variety of themes and feel free; I start writing and suddenly I'm in my own world. Creative Writing at King's has changed my outlook*

*on life and enhanced my abilities in everyday things. My confidence has grown remarkably and I can feel proud of what I have written each term through our anthologies. I am so honoured to have been awarded the Victoria Walkley Memorial Prize for Creative Writing at Speech Day. The significance of it means so much to me and has inspired me to continue with my writing."*

Another club member Felicity, said:  
*"Creative Writing Club at King's High is an amazing way to express yourself as it gives us the opportunity to explore writing beyond our already brilliant English lessons with the supervision and guidance of our teacher. We are able to explore all kinds of genres and styles of writing such as poetry, prose and even writing article-style. It's also great to see our work showcased in our termly Creative Writing Anthology which is a joint effort between our senior and junior Creative Writing Clubs."*



## Creative writing extracts

### Jumanji by Lola

*'Du du duh'. 'Du du duh'. 'Du du duh'. There was something about this noise that was different from all the other drilling and digging sounds. 'Du du duh'. There it is again! Slowly walking one foot ahead of the other, climbing through the 'No Entry' sign. Lying half submerged into the dry, dug up soil was the corner of a reverberating, rusted box. As any curious child would, he brushed off the dirt and pulled the box out. 'Jumanji' was printed on the box. There were lots of messages written in capital letters, warning players the game would be 'perilous' – whatever that meant. Holding the mysterious box, he secretly snuck out of the building site and was on the way to share with his friends.*

*You couldn't even imagine the look of surprise on his friends' faces when the box was placed on the floor! They were speculating all the exciting things this game would consist of. Not only was the box reverberating, it started jumping up and down, like someone was inside trying to get out! In a panic, they decided to open the lid. A swirling bright light jumped out, like it was going to take the children into another universe!*

*The boy who originally found the box, and his three other friends, had somehow been transported into a rainforest. Prowls of jaguars running at incredible speeds, orange orangutangs swinging from trees, like Tarzan, and butterflies fluttering their vibrantly coloured wings could be seen for acres.*

*A voice called out, 'Hello Players, you are playing Jumanji. None of you may leave until you personally have completed the game. Every dice roll you take will unleash something which could cause consequences. Always be on the lookout as something disastrous might happen any second. Good Luck!'*

*The game began. The children were labelled as Player 1, 2, 3 and 4. It was Player 1's turn to start. She rolled the dice.*

### Trojan by Felicity

*It was still and quiet inside the vast wooden belly of the trojan horse, despite the hundreds of men that lay in silent anticipation of the right moment, barely visible in the meagre shafts of orangey light that managed to push through the wooden planks. Occasionally, a clink of two golden pieces of armour clashes as the men within shift a little. The warm buzz of drunken laughter and merry chatter fills the air as traditional music floats through the air, the shuffle of footsteps as the people outside light-heartedly tap their feet, swaying with the music.*

*Eventually, as night creeps into early morning, the noise begins to die down, going from raucous partying to content chatter, eventually to the soft sounds of the slumber that had settled over the courtyard. This was it, their moment to strike. Creeping toward the trapdoor in the centre of the Trojan horse, the soldiers were silent as a morgue, slinking like snakes fixated on prey as they one by one lower themselves down via ladder to the floor. They descend around the courtyard, positioning themselves around it, waiting for the cue that could change everything.*

*After just moments of lying in wait, a powerful battle holler echoes around the courtyard. Before the slumbering courtyard even wakes, the men are upon them like tigers, some wielding fang-like spears, while others rapidly fired arrows with the precision of a hunting hawk. The opposition roared in fury as they scrambled to find the weapons they'd discarded in the drunken haze of earlier, though many had been trampled in the panicked haste to get to safety.*

*Golden swords clashed with force against the heavy, decorated shields that the soldiers held up to their chests like a coveted trophy, rather than their only means of protection. Despite their efforts, they began to slow down.*

# Drama

We would love to share your memories of treading the boards at school. Please email Sarah on [sa.whitehouse@warwickschools.co.uk](mailto:sa.whitehouse@warwickschools.co.uk)

## Stars abound as BHT continues to spread its magic 25 years on

This year marks the 25th anniversary of The Bridge House Theatre, which proudly sits at the heart of the Warwick campus.

Since it was opened by Dame Judi Dench in 2000, the theatre has become a focal point in the school community and has grown into one of the area's most popular venues for theatre productions, musical concerts, comedy shows, and more. In celebration, the theatre produced The Anniversary Showcase, celebrating all of the incredible theatre experiences it has provided over the years. Featuring pupils past and present, the evening included short extracts from plays, musicals, and sketches, alongside images and displays recalling many of the incredible shows that the theatre has hosted. In collaboration with other Foundation schools and community groups, students from King's High and Warwick participated in a range of pieces, including Romeo and Juliet; Art (performed entirely in French and Spanish by the talented Performing in Other Languages Club), Matilda Jr. and A Midsummer Night's Dream (Bridge House Young Company).



Dame Judi Dench officially opened the new Bridge House Theatre alongside husband Michael Williams and former head of Warwick School, Philip Cheshire



## Hope and Glory

Hope Brotherhood, whose final year at King's High saw her scoop a range of awards in drama and music, is beginning a BA in Musical Theatre (Triple Threat) at Chichester Conservatoire.

Hope was placed first in the senior category of the ISA Musical Theatre awards and the ISA Shakespeare Competition, where she achieved the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust: Woman Who Made Shakespeare Award for her original monologue based on Lady Macbeth. Hope also performed in the Arts Theatre on the West End as part of the national West End Calling competition, where she achieved the Best Acting Performance Award.

*"Throughout King's I have been immersed in all things drama and music, from singing in choirs to being part of many wonderful productions such as Macbeth, Everyman, The Musicians, Jesus Christ Superstar, The Great Gatsby and Sweeney Todd. I was also so lucky to be able to direct the Key Stage 3 Musical Theatre Club's production. All of these opportunities have helped me push myself and explore drama in different ways."*

Hope, who also writes and records her own songs on the guitar or piano, was awarded the school's Senior Musician Of The Year. *"I have also been involved with music at the boys' school, which has given me the opportunity to explore other genres of music such as rock, funk and jazz, and perform in Bridge House of Rock and The Christmas Cracker. This all has helped further my dream of performing professionally in theatres. I am so looking forward to spending more time dancing, singing and acting full time, and I'm looking forward to whatever the future holds!"*

Explore more of Hope's outstanding performances on her YouTube channel: @hopebrotherhood



Hope was chosen from over 200 entrants as the winner of the Senior Category at the ISA Musical Theatre National Final, performing Maybe I Like It This Way. The judge said her performance was 'flawless' and added that they 'couldn't stop watching'

## King's High Drama

The Summer Term has been action packed for the Drama Department at King's High with the final major production of the year: No Place Like Home and The Warwick Preparatory School Year Six production of Newsies Jr. in the Bridge House Theatre.

Community remains a vital tenet of the Drama experience at King's, with Musical Theatre Appreciation students developing two wonderful concerts (including very popular sing-along sections!) for local care homes in Leamington Spa. The LAMDA students and teachers have achieved an outstanding set of results, with a high majority of students receiving Distinctions. The 'No Place Like Home' cast were also awarded 'Best Ensemble', receiving feedback from the judges that *"the cast not only transported us to Oz but provided us with all the magic and wonder that made this piece truly memorable"*.



# Youngsters hitting the right ‘key’ can unlock a new scholarship opportunity

## King Henry VIII Choral Programme



A new King Henry VIII Choral Programme is being launched, as part of a partnership with The Collegiate Church of St Mary, Warwick.

The programme has been made possible by the historic relationship Warwick Schools

Foundation and St Mary's enjoys with The King Henry VIII Endowed Trust, Warwick. The King Henry VIII Choral Awards – which are funded by The King Henry VIII Endowed Trust, Warwick and available from September 2026 – are scholarships for boys and girls from Year 3 upwards who are a pupil at one of our schools and an active member of St Mary's Choir. Through the launch of the King Henry VIII Choral Programme, the aim is to enable as many talented children as possible to benefit from the unique opportunities that choral participation affords them, alongside the outstanding education that we provide in the schools of the Foundation.

Richard Ashworth, Community Engagement Officer for Warwick Schools Foundation, reports that several community initiatives, including Warwick Singing Town, are encouraging young children to sing. He adds that Warwick Schools Foundation is keen to boost numbers of children having this access: *“For many talented youngsters there may be limited musical provision available in their school and local area, so we are working to identify these children, particularly in the CV34 postcode. There is some incredible musical knowledge we can help to share and hopefully unlock and nurture untapped talent.”*

For more information, please visit the Foundation choral pages: <https://www.warwicksschoolsfoundation.co.uk/khviii-choral-award> and <https://www.warwicksschoolsfoundation.co.uk/community/enabling-musical-opportunities>

## Founders and Benefactors

On Friday 2 May, the King's High and Warwick Prep community, together with Warwick School, gathered for our annual Founders and Benefactors' Service at St Mary's, Warwick.

It was a special opportunity to reflect with gratitude on the founding, history, and progress of our schools, and to give thanks to those who have supported the King's High's journey in educating the Changemakers of the future since 1879. The service followed a proud milestone for King's High earlier in the week, as we celebrated our 146th birthday on Tuesday 29 April.



## Bravo, Anna!

One of the school's choral talents is Anna (pictured here with headmaster Dr Stephen Burley) who won the BBC's Chorister of the Year.

Speaking of Anna's performance, judge and soprano singer Katherine Jenkins said: *“What a brave, brave performance that was! Technically really accomplished.”* Anna is also a talented actor and starred as Young Lucius in the RSC's production of Shakespeare's dramatic tragedy *Titus Andronicus*.



Bravo, Anna



## KHS Archives

# Sale of Warwick landmark sparks trip down memory lane

The prospective sale of Eastgate and St Peter's Chapel sparked Ali Hawkesford-Quickfall and friends and family to recall their own history with this historic building from school days.



Ali Hawkesford-Quickfall

The Grade I listed building was leased by King's High School between 1916 – 2009, and had various uses including as a staff room, classrooms, a library and Sixth Form Centre. The gate itself was constructed in the 12th century at the same time as the castle and wall were erected. St Peter's Chapel is believed to have been constructed above the gate in around 1426. Initially built as a chapel for the local community,

it was used as an educational building from 1700, until being sold and converted into a private dwelling in 2010.

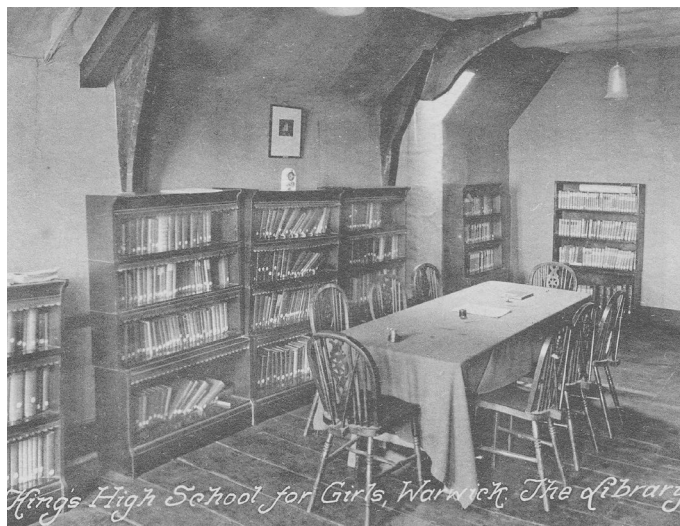
King's High alumna Ali Hawkesford-Quickfall (KHS 1993-98), who is a branch manager and director at Hawkesford's estate agency which is managing the sale, has her own personal links with the building where her sister, cousin and many friends were taught. *"Eastgate is a Warwick landmark and very much tied in with the schools and their pupils. My father Malcolm and brother James were at Warwick, and my nieces are now at King's High, so it's a very personal sale for us all."*

Ali said it had been fun speaking with friends and family about their memories. *"Louise Hayward (Moreton) said she remembers reading Othello for English A-Level in Eastgate and it felt very fitting to be reading Shakespeare in such an historic building. She is very grateful for that memory. Emily Licconi (Griffiths) remembered Latin lessons in there with Miss Dormer and the sloping floors have always remained in her mind. Another friend, Harri Tanter (Vaughan) remembered an English teacher bringing in a large box of chocolates as a treat for learning content from outside the syllabus!"*

There are also tales of high jinx from the Hawkesford family. Ali's sister Amy Boak (Hawkesford) recalled maths lessons in Eastgate with Mrs Sherren where the girls used to see who could sneak up the clock tower and change the time. Whilst their cousin, Emily Hawkesford, recalled not coming into school after prom, which they were meant to, and she and her friends were made to tidy all the books in Eastgate as punishment!

As to the sale, Ali said prospective buyers had been excited about owning a place akin to their own castle complete with ramparts. *"The building has been converted into a high-end, two-bedroom two-bathroom home but with properties like Eastgate, you are more than the owner, you are the custodian. It takes a very special person to take on a building such as this,"* she said. For details of the property visit:

<https://hawkesford.co.uk/property/east-gate-warwick/>



1920s Top of Eastgate Library

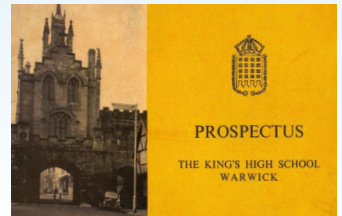


1950s Girls on Eastgate balcony



1960 Miss Loane Teaching French in Eastgate

If you would like us to feature something special about King's High or have a memory to share, please do contact [sa.whitehouse@warwickschools.co.uk](mailto:sa.whitehouse@warwickschools.co.uk)



1970s Prospectus Eastgate



1923 Visit of Prince of Wales



Front of the building



*The King's High School for Girls, Warwick, The Staff Room.*

1910s staff room in Eastgate



...and now as a living and dining room



1960s classroom in Eastgate



...and now as a bedroom which still features the school lockers

# The 914 Society



At King's High School and across our Foundation schools, we believe in the power of education to transform lives. Thanks to the philanthropic support of previous generations, we are already able to fund 130 bursary places across our schools

each year, giving the gift of a King's High education to those who would not otherwise be able to access it.

Every additional pound we receive for our bursary fund goes towards increasing that number.

## The 914 Society



One of the ways of supporting is by becoming a member of the new 914 Society, where donors give £9.14 or more to bursaries each month. Taking its name from the year traditionally associated with the founding of the first of our family of schools, the

Society recognises and honours the past, present and future of philanthropy, and how, without generous support from donors, none of our schools would exist.

The 914 Society is an exclusive community of supporters dedicated to widening access to a Foundation education. It is a way for members to make a regular meaningful contribution to give future generations the same opportunities that they once enjoyed themselves.

We have been learning more about the achievements of our former students who were awarded a bursary during their time at King's High. After leaving the school, Leah Townsend (KHS 2012-19) went on to study Business at the University of Bath, where she took part in an academic exchange programme at the University of Queensland, ranked as one of the top 50 universities in the World University Rankings.



Whilst Leah had planned to move to London after university, Brisbane and Australia stole her heart and she just knew she had to go back. "Never would I have imagined I'd be here 3-4 years ago. King's High had a part to play in me knowing that I could

make this move to Brisbane and that I'd be OK". Within one week of her move, she secured a corporate role in tech recruitment after taking a bold approach and reaching out directly to the Director on LinkedIn. Since then, she has moved on to a similar role in a larger, global company.

*"It's like a golden ticket. Very few and far between get this opportunity which helps to open doors for them. So many people I know would have also thrived in the opportunities that were made possible for me by the bursary scheme"*

**Leah Townsend, KHS 2012-19**

Leah has recently helped us say thank you to a small number of donors, by sending video messages sharing her story and outlining the impact that her time at King's High and having access to the bursary had on her.

There are a number of ways to support pupils, through mentoring and networking, or through gifts.

### Why join?

- Stand with others to support future generations
- Make a life-changing difference
- Give something back to King's High

### As a member of the 914 Society, you will receive:

- A personalised thank you letter
- Updates on the impact of your donations
- Invitations to donor events and behind-the-scenes stories

### Sign up now to change a future

If you'd like to change a future please register here <https://secure.edirectdebit.co.uk/Warwick-School/bursaries-2025> to choose which school(s) you would like to support, how much you would like to contribute and whether you would like to give monthly, quarterly or annually.