THE KINGSLEY SCHOOL

Celebrating
140 Years
of Excellence

ALUMNI NEWS

ISSUE 2 **SPRING 2025** **www.thekingsleyschool.co.uk/community/alumni**
www.warwickfoundationconnect.com

WELCOME

We hope you enjoy reading about school and alumni news plus a range of events, reunions and activities which we are developing to help strengthen our Kingsley alumni community. We encourage you to share this newsletter with friends or contacts who may have lost touch with the school and invite you all to our events, whether at Kingsley or online, around the UK and/or overseas.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

1980s DECADE REUNION

Saturday 11 October, 2pm-5pm

Those of you who took their A levels at the end of 1980, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88 and 89 (plus classmates who may have left earlier) are warmly invited back to The Kingsley School for a 1980s Decade Reunion on Saturday 11 October, 2pm-5.00pm.

Enjoy the opportunity to return to school and spend time with your contemporaries, reconnect and see Kingsley School as it is today. The reunion will be simple and relaxed with a welcome from Headteacher Dr Sarah Howling, a chance to tour the school and plenty of time for mingling. Complimentary refreshments will be available for you to enjoy. It is sure to be a nostalgic afternoon.

While there is no charge for attending, we would be grateful if you would register here by clicking this link: **https://forms.office.com/e/xGgi39TZhc**, so we know who's coming.

We are working to find as many former students as possible from this decade and would appreciate help with widening our search. Please spread the word!

The Kingsley School 1981 ©Gillman and Soame

DO YOU HAVE CHILDREN AT ONE OF OUR SCHOOLS?

Informal drinks at The Craftsman Café and Bar, Warwick – Thursday 15 May, 19:00

Calling all parents of children at Warwick, King's High, Kingsley or Warwick Prep

Owen James (WS 1993-2003) and Arun Sachdev (WS 1991-2002) are some of many Warwick Schools Foundation alumni who currently have children at Warwick, King's High, Warwick Prep or The Kingsley School. Owen and Arun invite fellow alumni parents to join them for informal drinks at The Craftsman, Warwick on Thursday 15 May, from 19:00. No agenda, just an opportunity to get together.

Run by Harvey Brown (WS 2014-21), and father Paul, The Craftsman on Smith Street in Warwick offers independent, real craft beer (16 taps!) and there's a good selection of other drinks for those who would prefer something different. Card payment only accepted.

If you're a Kingsley alumni with a child or children at any of our Foundation schools we would love to see you on 15th May! Please register your interest by clicking this link **https://forms.office.com/e/PCaijd47zz** as soon as possible, so we can give The Craftsman an idea of numbers.

STAYING IN TOUCH

All former students, parents of students and staff are part of our community. We welcome contact with you all and invite you to get and stay in touch. Perhaps you have a memory you'd like to share, an old photograph to add to our archives, classmates with whom you'd like to reconnect, reunion plans or maybe you're happy to inspire our current students by sharing your career journey or offering mentoring support.

Julia Donoghue, Alumni Relations, The Kingsley School
alumni@kingsleyschool.co.uk Tel: 01926 776404

THE KINGSLEY SCHOOL ART EXHIBITION

Saturday 28 June, 1pm-4pm – All welcome

UPDATE YOUR DETAILS

If you wish to update your details, please go to
www.thekingsleyschool.co.uk/community/alumni

RECENT EVENTS

KINGSLEY ALUMNI IN HONG KONG

22 September 2024

Kingsley Alumni in Hong Kong enjoyed a Warwick Schools Foundation alumni gathering at the Indian Recreation Club in Causeway Bay.

L-R: TKS Tayma Page Allies, TKS Rachael Desgouttes and KHS Gail Southward

RECENT LEAVERS' DRINKS

Recent Leavers' Drinks were held in Warwick Hall on Tuesday 17 December. Alumni from Kingsley School, King's High School and Warwick School enjoyed festive drinks with friends. We wish recent leavers every success with their future studies and life beyond. Keep in touch!

Jasmine Spencer and Kitty Bonsor

MOCK INTERVIEW CAREERS EVENING

In November a number of alumni kindly returned to give careers and mock interview support at the Kingsley Mock Interview evening. Students benefited from mock interview experience and useful feedback.

L-R: Peter Bucknall Deputy Headteacher Academic – Alumni Jane Pavia-Davis, Catriona Woodbine, Claire Lynch, Erica Mackay, Director of Sixth Form Dan Chambers and remotely, Hannah Wright

FLOREAT LUNCH

In February, we held a lunch to thank and celebrate members of the Floreat Society who have chosen to support their school by leaving a gift in their Will. The society includes members from across Warwick Schools Foundation, who have expressed their wishes to support Warwick School, King's High and Kingsley, and last year legacy gifts made across the Foundation totalled £347,000. These donations all support current and future students, with the majority directed to giving more young people access to a Foundation education.

Thank you to our legacy supporters and their families, whether at the lunch or not, who have chosen to support their school in this special way.

If you would like to learn more about the Floreat Society, or discuss leaving a legacy gift to your school, please contact Emily Gladman (Head of Philanthropy) at e.gladman@warwickschools.co.uk or 01926 776403.

Alumni were invited to the Kingsley School Carol Service at Holy Trinity Church on 12 December. The students were able to display their musical talents and the service was enjoyed by all.

140TH BIRTHDAY ALUMNI GARDEN PARTY

Saturday 21 September 2024

To celebrate 140 years of The Kingsley School, we were delighted to welcome back many alumni and former staff for a Garden Party on 21st September. The occasion was a great opportunity for 80 former pupils and staff to enjoy revisiting the school and see much which is still familiar, as well as some of the great changes which have taken place in recent times. Above all, the afternoon was a great opportunity to connect and spend time with friends back at school.

Headteacher Dr Sarah Howling and Warwick Schools Foundation Principal Mr Richard Nicholson were pleased to meet so many former pupils and staff, and to share and reflect on what makes Kingsley special. Everyone enjoyed a piece of the 140th birthday cake made by the superb catering team and the students gave informative tours of the school.

"It was so lovely to see all the changes around the building, yet some things are still the same. It brought back so many memories. The Sixth Form girls were great and very knowledgeable. It was so nice to see how the school has evolved and compare to what it was like in the 50s. How lucky today's pupils are!"

"It was lovely to connect with old friends and teachers."

"Kingsley School made me feel independent. I will always value the education Kingsley gave me"

"A school with a special feel, with a warm and nurturing atmosphere"

"A happy place where I made amazing lifelong friendships"

"The feeling of community in a small and friendly school"

"We formed strong friendships and learnt to work and play hard"

"Great memories and set me up for life"

"The education I received helped prepare me for my long interest in supporting my community"

"Unique dedicated teachers"

"Kingsley was a safe place that gave me the confidence to go out and spread my wings which ripples through to my own children"

"Kingsley gave me the confidence to achieve many things in life"

"Kingsley cares for the whole student, not just academically"

"A very happy time with people, like me, who enjoyed learning"

"A happy, kind, and caring place"

"A full rounded education."

CELEBRATING CAREERS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Insights into some of our alumni from different decades

LUCY GREAVES, TKS 2016-22

Performance Coach at Hitech Grand Prix

Lucy's role as a performance coach at Hitech Grand Prix began in March 2024 as a compulsory university unpaid placement position which officially ended in May 2024. Since then, she has been offered a paid role in the Human Performance Department, which she thoroughly enjoys.

Her role includes assisting the programming of training sessions for the F4 racing drivers. She has travelled to ROKiT FIA British Formula F4 race weekends with the team, assisting the drivers with race activation training sessions and pre-race warm-ups. She values her time at Hitech GP as it has given her a valuable insight into the world of motorsport as well as exposure to a unique aspect of performance coaching.

Lucy will be forever grateful for her time at The Kingsley School for many reasons; but mainly because she would never have been able to achieve what she has so far without the unlimited belief that her teachers had in her to achieve her potential.

ERIKA STEVENSON MA – ROYAL COLLEGE OF ART, TKS 1957-66

Cinematographer

Erika was a full-time boarder at The Kingsley School from age eight. After school she trained as a State Registered Nurse at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London.

She later went on to complete an Arts Course in Graphic Design and became interested in Photography and film making. This led to a Master's Degree in Film and Television at the Royal College of Art.

She worked in the Film and Television Industry as a cinematographer shooting documentary films for the BBC, ITV, Channel 4, Central Television, Thames Television, and Independent Production Companies. She was one of only three women cinematographers in the television industry at this time.

Her main line of work as a cinematographer was shooting documentary films, dramas and pop promos. She produced and directed various films. On several occasions her work took her into dangerous situations and places including Afghanistan during the Soviet/Afghan War, Namibia during Apartheid and in Beirut where she was taken hostage. In 1987 she crossed closed borders at night in disguise to get to Afghanistan then walked for four weeks over the Hindu Kush Mountains to get to remote Badakshan during the war with the USSR. It was a fascinating but dangerous experience, and she considers herself lucky to get out alive!

In Namibia she filmed in secret pretending to be making a wildlife film when really, she and the crew were filming the appalling living conditions in their struggle to gain independence and freedom from the oppressive South African Apartheid regime.

Other films followed including a BBC documentary series about Nurses, an in depth portrayal of the lives of nurses in Whipps Cross Hospital documenting the stresses and strains of looking after seriously ill patients, 'Merely Mortal' (Channel 4) about attitudes to mortality and peoples' experience of bereavement as well as a TV series about the schooldays of celebrities including interviews with Kate Adie, Aled Jones (then a young boy), Julie Walters, John Peel, Judi Dench and Victoria Wood to mention a few. Erika gained recognition for these works and was featured and named in magazine and newspaper articles.

She was a founder member of The Women's Film, Television and Video Network set up to encourage and support more women to go into the film and television industry.

Erika is also proud to be a founder member of the very first rape crisis centre in the UK providing 24-hour counselling for victims.

Erika embodies the pioneering spirit of the school, and we are so proud to count her as an esteemed member of our alumni community.

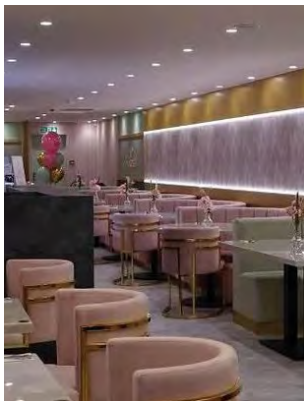
She has kindly offered to give a talk to current students in the Autumn term.

KARINA SANDHER, TKS 2005-2012

Heavenly Desserts

Karina is the owner of Heavenly Desserts in Leamington Spa offering delicious desserts and savoury brunches since July 2023. If you haven't already done so, please call in and enjoy the food and ambience of this lovely eatery.

www.heavenlydesserts.co.uk



TAYMA PAGE ALLIES, TKS 1971-76

Fine Jewellery

"To be an exceptional jeweller, you need a natural flair for proportion and colour; a sensibility for beauty of a gemstone, and an idea of who is going to wear it."

"Fine jewellery is all about creating contemporary yet timeless pieces."

Tayma was a boarder at Kingsley School and went on to study Italian and History of Art at university. She is fascinated by Italian art, jewellery and culture.

She grew up in Trinidad in the 1970s which was all about sun, sea, carnival and steel bands: all colour, expression and exuberance. The glass bottomed boats in Tobago, the turquoise beaches of Barbados, the amazing carnival costumes, the mix of nationalities, all influenced her passion for the beauty and individuality of coloured gemstones.

Living in Africa in the 1980s was a whole new experience for her: the indigo dye pots in Kano, northern Nigeria, nomadic Tuareg guards with their dark denim scarves, the blue and red African beads sold in the markets of Lagos, again colour played a huge part. She used to buy beads from the markets to make into necklaces and earrings, which was the start of her future career.

Now celebrating over 30 years of jewellery design, Tayma has a renowned reputation as Hong Kong's leading gemstone collector and connoisseur, and she has started researching and writing articles and poems for publication.

www.taymafinejewellery.com

CLARE HAYNES, TKS 1982-87

f:Entrepreneur #iAlso100

Clare Haynes, founder of Wildfire, was spotlighted at a special International Women's Day event at the House of Lords, celebrating her success as a founder. Clare founded Wildfire 22 years ago, after a career in television, sport and the charity sector. With a background in psychology, she set out to help people determine their own future, by learning to be confident in conversations – often in difficult circumstances.

Clare, whose business helps women (and men) to become confident in conversation, was one of 100 female entrepreneurs from across the UK selected for Small Business Britain's annual #iAlso100 – a line-up of 2025's most inspirational female entrepreneurs.

She was named as one of *f*:Entrepreneur's #iAlso100 in recognition of her impressive entrepreneurial journey, including running her business alongside a host of other responsibilities. Clare, a single parent who also runs a property business, was recognised for her commitment to equip more women in being able to handle difficult situations, especially when feeling vulnerable. *"It's an honour to be in a room of such extraordinary talent and in a fantastic setting for female business founders to be acknowledged."*

She enjoyed afternoon tea and networking in Westminster, meeting other founders from across the country, as well as special guests, which included representatives from across Government and the King's Trust.

Launched in 2017, the *f*:Entrepreneur #iAlso100 campaign highlights the immense and multi-dimensional contributions of women business owners, many of whom lead purpose-driven businesses while supporting their local communities through mentoring, volunteering, and collaboration.

www.wildfireatwork.co.uk

SCHOOL NEWS

140 ACTS OF KINDNESS TO MARK 140 YEARS OF THE KINGSLEY SCHOOL

As we celebrate Kingsley's 140th birthday year, we were excited to launch the 140 Acts of Kindness project at the start of the Spring Term. This initiative is designed to inspire every member of the school community with compassion and empathy, working collaboratively towards an end goal. Students, staff and alumni all have the opportunity to send in video clips featuring some of the wonderful acts of kindness happening both in and out of school.

The Power of Kindness in Community Wellbeing

Wellbeing is nurtured in an environment where kindness and mutual support are prioritised. With 140 Acts of Kindness, we're offering a meaningful way to reinforce our commitment to each other's wellbeing. From small gestures, like helping a friend with homework, to larger acts, like volunteering for a community cause, each act is a reminder of the strength we find in looking out for each other. As we collectively aim to reach 140 acts, we aim to demonstrate how kindness binds us together and deepens our shared sense of belonging.

Please click the links below to see how the students got involved.

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/p/DF-CPSeJqmb/

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/thekingsleyschool/videos/511754228196701

If you would like to get involved, please email your video clips or ideas to marketing@kingsleyschool.co.uk by Friday 13 June.

Let's spread kindness together!

SIXTH FORM CAREERS

In the Sixth Form, there is a strong focus on empowering students to explore the huge range of post-18 opportunities. We support students throughout their journey at Kingsley in developing the employability needed to succeed in today's rapidly evolving workplace – adaptability, resilience and a good understanding of their own strengths and attributes to make effective career decisions throughout their lives. We equip our students with the skills and knowledge for successful transition to university/college, apprenticeships or employment.

During our annual visit to the University Search Fair, students meet some of the UK's top universities and employers, learning about different course options and pathways, and attending seminars to help them make informed choices about their futures. We hold a series of events in school and across the Warwick Schools Foundation, including our inspirational Higher Education and Next Steps event where students meet and hear from representatives from local universities, and enjoy breakfast with alumni who talk about their post-18 experiences and careers. We organise various other events in school, including talks on Degree Apprenticeships and gap years, and mock interview and psychometric testing sessions.

Work experience is an increasingly important factor in gaining admission to university or apprenticeship places, and students are encouraged to find relevant placements in the summer between Years 12 and 13. We have built up excellent partnerships with local businesses and professionals who offer work experience placements, practice interviews and support our guest speaker programme.

The Kingsley School are holding a Next Steps event on Monday 23 June. If you are able to contribute to this day by giving a 10 minute talk about your journey since leaving school, or can offer a work experience placement in the summer, we would love to hear from you! Please email Julia Donoghue at alumni@kingsleyschool.co.uk.

LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE

Over the summer we redeveloped our 'Learning Resource Centre' (LRC), a space all pupils thoroughly enjoy using.

ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY STUDENTS FIND INSPIRATION AT LONDON ART FAIR

Art and photography students from Years 10 to 13 enjoyed exploring the world of contemporary art at the prestigious London Art Fair at the Business Design Centre in Islington. The annual trip has become a highlight for Kingsley students as they look to gain inspiration for their own work.

RECORD-BREAKING SCORES

Year 11s who sat early GCSEs in November achieved record-breaking scores in Mathematics. Kingsley's Mathematics Department continues to inspire and challenge students at all levels and we are proud to see them thriving in both internal and external competitions. We look forward to more achievements and celebrations throughout the year!

We were delighted to hear that Y12 student, Isabel, was the highest scorer in the world in the Fashion and Textiles Cambridge O Level exam; an outstanding achievement.

Isabel with teacher Claire Dempsey and Headteacher Sarah Howling

YEAR 7 STUDENTS EXCEL IN SPORTS

Year 7 students have been showing exceptional talent and determination across a variety of sports, achieving remarkable success in netball, dance, swimming and more. Mrs Warrillow, Kingsley's Head of Sport, commented: *"It's inspiring to see our Year 7 students excelling in both individual and team sports. These achievements are a testament to their hard work and we're so proud of them."*

OPEN MORNING

The Kingsley School offers a welcoming, nurturing environment from Prep to Sixth Form.

The Kingsley School will be extending co-education for the Prep School into the Senior School from September 2025. This will be a phased introduction, with boys joining Years 7 and 12, and becoming fully co-educational in 2029. We are looking forward to welcoming both boys and girls to our Kingsley community.

Whole School Open Morning
Sat 28 June 2025, 9.30am to 12.30pm
To register: **thekingsleyschool.co.uk/open-event/**

A VISION FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

When you walk through any Warwick Schools Foundation schools, you can feel it – the energy, the ambition, the heritage.

With a combined educational legacy of over 1,500 years, our schools have shaped minds and built futures, but what's next?

How does a centuries-old institution evolve in a rapidly changing world?

Professor Chris White

Richard Nicholson

Foundation Governor, Professor Chris White, and Richard Nicholson, Foundation Principal, discuss here the next phase of development – international schools and global expansion, what makes a Warwick education truly exceptional in an international context, and how alumni, our schools communities and partners can be part of the journey.

Warwick Schools Foundation has an incredible legacy. How will expanding internationally build on that legacy, what excites you most about expanding globally, and why?

The values of our schools and the Foundation are universal. Whilst the charity of Warwick Schools Foundation and the schools within it have changed over time, the commitment to outstanding education has never wavered. Indeed, successive governing bodies have embraced opportunities to extend education to more and more children over the years, be that through founding King's High in 1879, by welcoming The Kingsley School in 2021, or by establishing a Multi Academy Trust, announced last year.

What I'm most excited about is how we can offer a Warwick Schools Foundation education to even more pupils, and how our pupils and staff here in Warwick and Leamington can have their experience enriched by new partnerships.

What does global expansion actually look like? Are we talking new schools, partnerships, online education, or something else entirely?

There are a number of models where UK schools develop partnerships abroad. Most likely, ours will be a form of franchising arrangement where we work with existing businesses to operate schools, rather than building schools ourselves.

Sometimes existing schools can be re-franchised, and online education opens up other opportunities – not least between overseas schools and here.

Establishing international schools fulfils key elements of our strategic plan in building a wider, international community and, as international schools will bring in new revenue which will be invested back into the charity, they will help support our aim to remain as accessible as possible.

In order to help us realise our ambitions, we are delighted to be working with Ayham Ayche of Incyte International, a highly respected consultant on international schools.

> **"It is in our DNA to want to collaborate – to work with and learn from others."**

Chris White

Chris has been a Governor since 2023 and serves on the Finance and Resources and King's High Committees.

He lives locally and has enjoyed a close relationship with Warwick Schools Foundation since moving to Warwick in 2003.

Chris was the Member of Parliament for Warwick and Leamington between 2010-2017 and is passionate about the area and its strong sense of community; the Saturday Market, the Lord Leycester Hospital, and The Collegiate Church of St Mary's, to name a few.

But, beyond traditions and history, Chris is similarly passionate about the future, and the role that towns can play regionally, nationally, and even globally.

As MP, Chris sat on the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and International Development Select Committees. With this experience, and his current role as Chief Advisor at the Manufacturing Technology Centre, Chris is delighted to be appointed Chair of the Overseas School Committee – and is looking forward to exploring the opportunities this initiative might bring.

You've often talked about balancing tradition and heritage with innovation. How does that philosophy apply to global expansion?

There is no doubt that heritage and tradition can be great burdens – they can obscure current and future needs through the opaque or rose-tinted lens of the past. But they can also be enablers. Successful institutions have learnt how to respond to the times in which they find themselves, safe in the knowledge that each successive generation has drawn strength from the past, giving them the confidence to plan for the future. We most certainly fall into that category and see it everyday in the curriculum developments at all our schools – Design Thinking at Warwick, alternative GCSEs at King's High, and our commitment to the wider educational debate through our 'Future Fwd' conference.

While we understand there are always risks in new ventures, it is in our DNA to want to collaborate – to work with and learn from others. The extension of our very particular model of education to an overseas audience is simply the next step in our journey, which we believe will be good for our pupils both internationally and at home here in Warwickshire.

Why now? What makes this the right moment for Warwick Schools Foundation to go global?

International education is something the Governors have explored over a number of years but recent events have brought the conversation back to the fore.

There are so many changes happening in every corner of the globe, and a shifting landscape in the education sector at home, which have given us renewed energy to want to go out and be part of the solution of creating a peaceful, interconnected world where everyone is given the opportunity to thrive. That is why we created a Multi Academy Trust to serve even more pupils in our community, and that is why we want to expand our impact outside our borders and provide our unique educational offering to families who want values at the heart of their children's education.

Which regions or countries are you focusing on first, and why?

There is already much activity in the UAE, China and Asia, and increasingly in Africa. Rather than location, the most important thing for us is to find partners who value the unique education we offer our current pupils and who can see the transformative impact it will have overseas.

"Fundamentally, we want our international schools to stand out as leading the way."

In a competitive and crowded space, what can international students gain from a Warwick education that they might not find elsewhere?

Our commitment to outstanding holistic education – offering truly unique opportunities both inside and outside the classroom – sets us apart. Our pupils have a rich variety of experiences, which prepare them not just for their immediate life beyond school but to make a positive contribution to the world around them. That is in no small measure because of our deep roots in the towns of Warwick and Leamington, nurtured year on year through educational projects which enable our Foundation pupils and other pupils from the local area to work together.

Fundamentally, we want our international schools to stand out as leading the way in educating pupils who impact their communities. The social responsibility that engenders is more important than ever in our rapidly changing world.

How does this expansion impact alumni? How can those reading this support or be part of this journey?

We are very proud of the international links we already have with our boarding alumni, which are especially strong in Hong Kong and mainland China.

Many international projects come to fruition through relationships with former pupils or members of the school community. Whilst Ayham is currently exploring opportunities and working with potential partners, we would be delighted to hear from any alumni who may be able to support.

However, everyone connected with us can help by talking positively about this ambition.

What's the one thing you want everyone to take away from this global expansion initiative?

This offers an amazing opportunity for us to share the unique benefits of a Warwick education internationally and in turn, for those schools to benefit our historic schools here.

Do you have any final thoughts?

These developments often take years to come to fruition – so we all have to be patient!

Please follow developments on the Foundation website: www.warwickschoolsfoundation.co.uk

Warwick Schools Foundation International

HOME AND AWAY

From France to Australia and from New Zealand to the USA, Kingsley alumni are living all around the world. Whether you are in the UK or overseas, we would love to hear what you are up to now. Please email an image and your news to alumni@kingsleyschool.co.uk

RUTH RODGERS NEE SALKELD, TKS 1946-1957

Ontario, Canada

This year will be Ruth's fifteenth year in Canada. She and her husband David have been fortunate to visit England many times, so they have had the best of both worlds with deep roots in both countries.

With the arrival of two great grandchildren recently, Ruth and David now have two generations of the family with real roots in Canada.

EMMA TAYLOR, TKS 1972-1985

New Zealand

Emma, a nurse, has lived in New Zealand since 1996. She is married with 2 daughters.

FIONA WALLACE-MASON NEE MITCHELL, TKS 1987-1992

Switzerland

Fiona was posted out to Zurich shortly after getting married in London to her university sweetheart! She was working for Goldman Sachs, at the time and had to venture out to Switzerland. That was 15 years ago. She now works for Rothschild Wealth Management as part of the Executive Management Team and is Chief Compliance Officer for the Swiss Group.

Fiona and her husband have been happily living in a lovely little village called 'Richterswil'. She works in Zurich and Geneva but travels to the bank's subsidiaries around Europe and the Middle East. She loves Swiss life and her joys are skiing, swimming in lakes, hiking and of course the chocolate!

She supports female talents in her career, runs the Rothschild Women's Network and is a member of the Rothschild European Balance and Inclusion Committee.

JEMMA BONNER, TKS 1996-2003

Welcome back

Jemma recently enjoyed a tour of the school and was able to share her memories.

HEATHER WILSON, TKS 1964-1971

Welcome back

Heather visited the school and kindly donated beautiful Art and Textile books to the school. She was able to recount many memories.

Heather has her own creative business – Maker of Mad and Beautiful Things: www.hwilsonart.com.

BARBARA BARNETT NEE DORNAN, TKS 1955-62

Manitoba, Canada

Barbara moved to Canada with her husband in 1965 – in a sense a "home-coming" as she was born in Canada in 1944. She came to England as a baby immediately after the war and started at Kingsley in 1955. She lived for 6 years in Ontario and moved to Manitoba in 1971.

Her life took a turn that would not have been possible until many years later in the UK. She began her Theology degree in 1978 and was ordained a priest in the Anglican Church of Canada in 1983, going on to complete a year's residency in pastoral care/ chaplaincy. She loved that work – feeling that important questions are often asked outside the walls of a church.

Barbara has been retired for 20 years, following her passion for birding and volunteering as a school group leader at a local nature centre. She has travelled across Canada visiting many provinces, first with a tent, and now with a little caravan.

Kingsley is very important in her life, and she follows the many changes through Facebook.

ANNE LAINCHBURY, TKS 1966-1973

New South Wales, Australia

Angela has lived in Sydney for almost 40 years and, with regular visits back to the UK, she has kept in touch with her old school friends Beatrice Price (née Bailey), Philippa Say (née Jones) and Alison Johnson (née Wooldridge) who lives in Queensland. A special treat was when Beatrice and Philippa joined her in Japan for a holiday last year, and this year all four are planning a catch-up in the UK.

Beatrice was a boarder at Cedars and keeps in touch with her boarder friends from Kingsley School.

BELINDA WILSON TKS 1975-83

Cambodia and Singapore

Last November, Belinda trekked and camped in Cambodia, raising funds for Sunflowers Suicide Support. She walked 107km in five days in 34-degree heat and full humidity, through paddy fields and jungle, arriving at the temples of Angkor Wat in time for the Full Moon Festival Day.

The group camped in Buddhist temples, sharing their troughs of rainwater for bucket showers and sleeping in tents under their pergolas. On the way back, Belinda stopped off to see one of her Kingsley friends in Singapore. They enjoyed a cocktail at the top of the Marina Bay Hotel as the sun went down. It was stunning!

In 2024, Belinda raised over £13,000 for the charity and several Kingsley alumni were kind enough to sponsor her. She quotes *"They are a great bunch, and it is fabulous to have friends that I made just about 45 years ago at school."*

KINGSLEY SCHOOL ARCHIVES

140 YEARS OF PERFORMING ARTS: CELEBRATING KINGSLEY'S THEATRICAL LEGACY

Over the decades, the school has staged a remarkable variety of performances, ranging from classical plays and musicals to Greek theatre and light opera. The drama department has hosted house competitions and festivals, while Prep students have put on countless Nativity plays – each one as endearing as the last. Alumni have also returned to perform for the school community, continuing the legacy of dramatic excellence.

The earliest play review in the school archives dates to 1890, when students performed *Antigone*. Classic novels have been performed: a 1960 version of *Emma* and *Jane Eyre* in 1990. Some works have enjoyed multiple revivals over the years, such as *Bugsy Malone*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *The Wizard of Oz* and *A Christmas Carol*. Senior School students have embraced the challenge of performing timeless musicals like *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* and *Oliver*, as well as more contemporary productions such as *Into the Woods* and popular West End hits including *Grease*, *Hairspray* and *Shrek*.

The latest production of *Sister Act* at the Bridge House Theatre was a great success.

The rich history of drama at Kingsley continues to inspire future generations, and as we look to the future, one thing is certain: the show will go on!

Wizard of Oz 2002

Oliver 2004

Shrek 2024

A COLLECTION OF DRAMA MEMORIES

Daisy Swaby in Twelfth Night 2013

Twelfth Night cast 2013

"Daisy our daughter (Daisy Swaby TKS 2012-2018), was the lead in *Twelfth Night* in Year 6 in 2013. She has just been accepted at Oxford Drama School and we feel the production really showcased her. I was in *Oliver* a million years ago!"
Jane Swaby (née Frampton), TKS 1976-82

"I remember Miss L. E. Thomas, who was head of Cedars, being a great contributor to drama in Kingsley School, formerly Leamington High School. She wrote a play entitled *Alice and Thomas and Jane*, which was performed at school. She taught English for many years and was an inspiration to many of us studying the subject.

Shakespeare and Milton's *Paradise Lost* became well-loved as a result. Her English lessons became more like seminars by the time we were in the Sixth Form and Homeric similes come to mind as one of her 'gems'."
Jane Schofield (née Palmer), TKS 1934-43

"I remember the Prep School performed an amazing play at the Spa Centre called *Victoriana* in the 90s – featuring Emma Hoyle (now Kingsley Drama teacher Emma Smith). There were various wonderful productions such as Gilbert and Sullivan – *Pirates of Penzance*."
Marlys Wright, Former Staff, TKS 1994-2019

"Milverton Lodge was an elegant early Victorian house in Milverton Crescent where I was one of 30 boarders, from 1950 to 1956. Every Christmas we used to perform a House Play. One year I remember we imagined the life of the family who had lived in the house years ago and performed it as a play. The crowning glory of the house was its magnificent staircase, which made a perfect setting for the play. Normally only the House Mistress Miss Phillips and Matron were allowed to use the front stairs, whereas we had to use the back stairs, so to perform the play on the stairs gave us an added frisson. We also took part in various inter-house competitions, and I remember one year when our song was *Cherry Ripe* which I still sing to myself occasionally."
Angela Wylam (née Reece), TKS 1948-56

"In 1997, a few months after I joined The Kingsley School, the Production, managed by Jeremy Dibb, Head of Performing Arts, was *Grease*. It was held in the Old Gym and we got the local fire brigade to come out one Sunday to cut up an old Mini and we wheeled the front half into the Gym as it formed the basis of the story. Happy days indeed."

Alan Savage, TKS Former staff 1995-2015

TWELFTH NIGHT 1946

Twelfth Night 1946

"My aunt, Pauline Walker, played Malvolio (centre of photo, standing on steps, in black costume) This production and the encouragement and support of her drama teacher, Miss Thomas, inspired my aunt to take up acting professionally. My aunt went on to study at the Birmingham School of Speech Training and Dramatic Art and qualified as a Licentiate of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in 1949. She acted in repertory theatre for many years, playing a variety of roles including Miss Marple, Lady Bracknell in the *Importance of being Earnest*, Mrs Danvers in *Rebecca*, Madame Arcati in *Blithe Spirit* and Miss Moffat in *The Corn is Green*. She then left acting to run an entertainments and staff agency. In her sixties, she returned to acting and took part in two UK tours of Wendy Toye's production of *The Sound of Music* and a UK tour of *Singin' in The Rain* directed by Tommy Steele and had various parts in TV productions.

My aunt died in 2022 aged 93. Even in her nineties, she talked fondly of her drama teacher, Miss Thomas, and her music teacher Miss Whitefoot. She always spoke with great affection of Leamington High School which became The Kingsley School.

I have lots of drama memories – performing in the Leamington Festival, productions at school, joint productions with the boys at Warwick School, taking a small show of songs around local care homes, and amazing Speech and Drama lessons doing LAMDA medals. All run amazingly by Mrs Short."

Sarah Densham (née Graham), TKS 1976-87

Maisie Dixon in the lead role Seymour in Little Shop of Horrors and singing Soprano at the 2024 Foundation Concert

"My first two shows at Kingsley School were *A Christmas Carol* were I played Tiny Tim and *The Sound of Music* were I played a Von Trapp child. I later went on to play the lead role in *Little Shop of Horrors*.

Kingsley's performing arts team gave me the confidence to join my local church choir. The annual shows helped my confidence grow immensely and gave me my love of performing."

Maisie Dixon, TKS 2016-24

1066 AND ALL THAT

"I played Julius Caesar, then Drake in the scene at the barber's salon.

I remember Miss Allcock produced *The Wind in the Willows* at The Cedars where she was our housemistress. I think I was Ratty or Mole. All great fun and good training for us.

I also made the dress from some old green velvet curtains for wardrobe."

Susan Woods (née Cook), TKS 1952-58

"I was one of the bathing beauties in *1066 and All That* c. 1958. I still remember our words: "We're the girlfriends of King Canute. How do you like my bathing suit?"

Barbara Barnett (née Dornan) 1955-62

"Two small memories spring to mind: one involved prefect Jill Anstey who played Malvolio in a production of *Twelfth Night* and brought alive the humour of the play in her deadpan presentation of 'yellow stockings cross-gartered'!

The other was when the whole year took part in a selection of scenes from *1066 and All That*. I enjoyed singing the songs but avoided having to appear on stage by operating the stage lighting. Ally Weir played a policeman with one line 'Have you got a licence?' if I remember correctly."

Jane Murray (née Gough), TKS 1964-73

Girls from Kingsley School entertaining at Heathcote Hospital.

An article from *The Morning News*, Tuesday, March 18, 1986.

Lou Renwick (née Kagan), TKS 1980-87

GOLDEN MEMORIES OF PREP SCHOOL DRAMA

"I loved performing arts at Kingsley Prep School. The school provided so many opportunities and supported us so much. I have many fond memories from LAMDA classes to school plays. It was especially lovely to come together with different year groups to support shows. Kingsley had such a great stash of costumes too. I remember so desperately wanting to wear a gold dress that was brought out for every Nativity. As the biggest/tallest girl in my year I assumed it wouldn't fit me until one Christmas there it was with my name on it! After-school classes with Miss Nikki set off a lifelong love of dance and musical theatre. We were so lucky to have classes in a proper dance studio on site.
I went on to study Musical Theatre at Stratford-upon-Avon College and now work as a Set and Costume Designer in London. I've assisted on some amazing shows and in 2023 I was nominated for an OffWestEnd Award for my design for 'Birthright' and I recently finished a residency at a school in London.
Kingsley's enthusiasm for the performing arts was so important to me, but the best bit was that it was always fun!"
Raffi Philcox, Kingsley Prep School, TKS 2001-09

TWO ACCOUNTS OF *EMMA*

Emma 1960

The cast of Emma 1960

"In 1960, when I was in the Lower Fifth, the Drama Club and the History Society combined to perform *Emma* by Jane Austen. It was produced by Miss Hoyland who taught English, assisted by Miss Henson, who was a history teacher and who set up the History Society, of which I was a member. The costumes were designed and made by Miss Kirkwood who was the Domestic Science teacher.
I played the part of Mrs Elton. The lead, Emma, was played by Elizabeth Carlton. The Lower Fifth or Lower Sixth girls performed as it was considered the Upper Fifth and Upper Sixth girls were too busy to take part due to their upcoming public examinations. I remember the backcloth and scenery were basic by theatrical standards.

I have always had a love of the theatre. I married a Scotsman and have lived in Scotland since 1974 and have taken part in local amateur productions.

I recently celebrated my 80th birthday and realise how much things have changed since my school days. I even wrote a memoir about my school days for my grandchildren.

My brothers attended Warwick School and took part in Gilbert and Sullivan productions."
Christine Browning (née Smalley), TKS 1954-62

"I was cast as Mr Knightley. I am not sure whether this was due to my acting ability or just being tall! It is amazing after 64 years that I am still in contact with three other members of the cast.
Elizabeth Hall (née Carlton), TKS 1949-60

"I was the Wall – Snout, in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, performed in the school garden around 1980. They show the old portacabins very well.
Liz Paterson (née Griffin), TKS 1976-84

"I remember an Elizabethan evening at school c. 1960. There were also several wonderful school plays written by Miss Thomas, who was English and Drama teacher. She retired in 1950. She was such a distinguished and long-serving member of staff, loved by everyone. Her plays would have been written both in the 1940s and before the Second World War. They were unusual in that they took great liberties for that period.
I remember plays written for the staff to act, in which she lampooned our various teachers unmercifully! Miss Henson, who was head of History at the time, is in the middle, second row up. I am sitting second to the right from her as you look at the picture."
Vicky Skans (née Airey), TKS 1947-1961

100 YEAR CELEBRATIONS...

"This photo features the headmistress of the time Miss Fairhurst, her secretary Miss Elkington and the Junior School matron who we used to call Mattie."
Valerie Clifford (née Lewis), TKS 1975-86

WARWICK FOUNDATION CONNECT

We are delighted to launch to alumni of The Kingsley School a free, online networking platform which brings together and capitalises on the collective strength of our alumni and communities of Warwick School, King's High and The Kingsley School.

www.warwickfoundationconnect.com is open to the communities of Warwick Schools Foundation, including alumni, former parents and friends.

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DECADE AND YEAR-GROUPS

Join the Kingsley Alumni group – an area for alumni to connect with each other, share photos, updates and hold group chats. As we are holding a 1980s reunion in October a 1980s-decade group has been created as well as year-groups for leavers from 1980, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88 and 1989.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

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GETTING STARTED

Joining the new platform only takes a few steps – you can join using your email address or make it even simpler by connecting your LinkedIn or Facebook profile.

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Kingsley School Alumni Relations,
c/o Warwick School, Myton Road, Warwick CV34 6PP
Tel: 01926 776404 Email: alumni@kingsleyschool.co.uk
www.thekingsleyschool.co.uk/community/alumni
www.warwickfoundationconnect.com