THE KINGSLEY SCHOOL

ALUMNI NEWS

ISSUE 3 **AUTUMN 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.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

1980s DECADE REUNION

Saturday 11 October, 2pm-5pm

Who remembers the Kingsley School Centenary Celebrations in 1984?

Come back and share your memories and see Kingsley School as it is today. This reunion is for those 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. Members of Staff from the 1980s are also warmly welcome.

It will be a relaxed afternoon with a welcome from the Headteacher Dr Sarah Howling, tours of the school and complimentary afternoon tea.

Please spread the word to anyone you know who may not be in contact with the school.

Please scan the QR code to register your attendance or visit https://forms.office.com/e/xGgi39TZhc

The Kingsley School 1981 ©Gillman and Soame

The Kingsley School 1984 ©Gillman and Soame

CROSS COUNTRY RUN

Saturday 13 September at Wimbledon Common

Alumni from Kingsley School are invited to join the race 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 3pm sharp at the Thames HQ (SW15 3DU) near the Robin Hood roundabout on the A3, two miles southwest of Putney. We would love as many of you as possible to enter. Team size is unlimited.

There is a £10 per person entry fee. 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 take part, please contact Julia Donoghue by Monday 8 September at j.donoghue@warwickschools.co.uk

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 7 March 2026 – 10am-12noon

Come along and enjoy a coffee and a pastry in the newly refurbished Lady Egan Learning Resource Centre. All welcome.

KINGSLEY CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Thursday 4 December – 7pm

We would like to invite you to the Kingsley Christmas Carol Service at Holy Trinity Church, Beauchamp Avenue, Leamington Spa on Thursday 4 December at 7pm.

Come and enjoy the musical talents of our students.

RECENT LEAVERS' DRINKS

2023, 2024 and 2025 leavers from The Kingsley School, King's High and Warwick School are invited to Christmas Drinks on Tuesday 16 December from 5pm-7pm.

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

Further details and registration at https://forms.office.com/e/WjAEJaM5kG

Venue will be confirmed when we have an idea of numbers.

KINGSLEY ALUMNI IN HONG KONG

Sat 20 September 2025

KINGSLEY ALUMNI IN DUBAI

Fri 7 November 2025

If you would like to join fellow alumni from Warwick Schools Foundation living in Hong Kong or Dubai, please email **j.donoghue@warwickschools.co.uk** for more details.

CELEBRATING CAREERS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Insights into some of our alumni from different decades

ALICIA CRAVEN, TKS 2009-19

Behind the Lens of a Changing Motorsport World

Kingsley alumna Alicia Craven is making her mark in the world of professional photography. One of her striking photographs was recently featured in the Financial Times article, "How female content creators are bringing F1 to a new generation." The image not only showcases her artistic talent but also highlights her powerful role in capturing and shaping the narrative of a cultural shift within motorsport.

Alicia's portrait captures influencer Lissie Mackintosh – a leading voice among the new wave of female Formula 1 content creators – with boldness and a vibrant modernity that mirrors the article's theme. Set against a soft purple backdrop, with Mackintosh confidently holding a racing helmet, Alicia's composition balances strength and femininity, challenging outdated stereotypes about who belongs in motorsport.

The inclusion of Alicia's work in such a globally respected publication is a testament to her keen eye, professionalism and growing influence in visual storytelling. Her ability to blend journalistic precision with a vivid, contemporary style makes her an ideal documenter of this new era in Formula 1 – an era increasingly defined by diversity, inclusion and the fresh energy of Gen Z fans.

Alicia was a student at Kingsley from 2009 to 2019. Following her GCSEs, she studied Photography, ICT and Business Studies in the Sixth Form. In 2001, she became a freelance photographer and has since built an impressive portfolio working with a wide range of clients across beauty, fashion, motorsport and property.

Alicia's journey from Kingsley's photography studio to photographing for the Financial Times is a source of immense pride for her former teachers and classmates. Ed Lax, who taught Alicia Fine Art GCSE and Photography A-level, reflects:

"Alicia's success serves as an inspiration for current students, showing that creativity, ambition and perseverance can lead to extraordinary opportunities. From the beginning, she showed a unique ability to see the world differently through the lens – always thoughtful, always curious. It's incredibly rewarding to see a former student making such an impact in a highly competitive field, and we are all so proud of what she has achieved."

Congratulations to Alicia. We can't wait to see where her lens will take her next!

SUSAN STRICKLAND (WRIGHT), TKS 1945-1953

Happy 90th Birthday

Susan celebrated her 90th birthday in March with a splendid garden lunch party on 1 June at her daughter's home. Seventy guests included two of her contemporaries from Kingsley: Bridget Cuthbert (Lowe) TKS 1948-53 and Ros Partidge (Bishop) TKS 1940-54. They have kept in touch ever since leaving in 1953/4 and enjoyed reminiscing over old times and friends. Foremost among these were the late Elizabeth Sheard (Howell Jones) and Sheila Gallimore (Gregg): *"We vividly recalled the five of us visiting the school on the 80th Anniversary of VE Day when Year 9, The Second Form invited us to a History Lesson/Street party complete with spam sandwiches. We talked with the girls about our war time memories and were then far more elegantly entertained by some of the staff afterwards."*

Ros Partridge (Bishop), Sue Strickland (Wright) and Bridget Cuthbert (Lowe)

CHRISTINA McMASTER, TKS 1997-2002

Lie Down and Listen

An accomplished pianist, Christina has captivated audiences at countless school concerts. She went on to study at Trinity Laban and then The Royal Academy of Music, where she earned a Master's and was appointed Associate in 2017. Christina has performed worldwide, won numerous awards, and is a dedicated educator, delivering masterclasses and lectures at Cambridge University, Denison University (Ohio) and the Royal Academy of Music. In 2018, she collaborated with King's College scientists to create 'Lie Down and Listen' a blissful soundhealing and lying down classical concert experience.

www.liedownandlisten.com

© Courtney Louise Photography at Highgrove, Gloucestershire

BETH RICKETT, TKS 2014-21

General Manager – Wildes

Wildes has always been a bit of a legend in Leamington. It first opened in 1976 as a French wine bar and restaurant — the kind of place where people danced on tables, stayed for lock-ins, and made memories that are still spoken about decades later. When it closed in 2018, it left gap in the town's soul.

Fast forward a few years, and Beth is now the General Manager of the new Wildes, responsible for not just reopening the doors, but reimagining what the place can be. *"I love the fast-paced nature of the job — no two days are the same — and I've built great relationships with our suppliers, many of them local."*

She adds "We've kept the spirit of the original. It's still a place for long nights, good drinks, and stories you would rather not be mentioned the next day! But we've also brought it into a new era — focusing on quality cocktails, local ingredients, and a space that feels equal parts elegant and welcoming. The Art Deco design nods to its past, but the energy is very much now.

It's a proper pleasure to see people fall in love with Wildes all over again. Whether they remember the old days or are walking through the doors for the first time, everyone's here for the same thing — a great night, with great people."

www.wildes-bar.co.uk

EVELYN O'SULLIVAN, TKS 2018-2020

BSc (Hons) in Veterinary Bioscience

Evelyn has completed the final stages of her BSc (Hons) in Veterinary Bioscience at Harper Adams University. Her undergraduate Honours Research Project focused on exploring the disease control and biosecurity protocols used by equine yard owners and managers in relation to *Streptococcus equi* subspecies *equi* (Strangles) infection.

Evelyn was honoured to be selected to present her research at the AllTech Equine Conference, held at Hartpury University on 7th May.

She has accepted an offer to study Veterinary Medicine and Surgery at Harper Keele Veterinary School, starting this September. *"I feel incredibly grateful for this opportunity and would like to say thank you to Mrs Morgan for her advice and support through the process; despite leaving Sixth Form nearly five years ago, Kinglsey still feels like such a supportive community."*

JENNIFER TURBERFIELD (GOODWIN), TKS 1986-1995

Welcome back

In June, Jennifer visited Kingsley School with her family on a trip to the UK from her home in Nashville, Tennessee, where she works as a real estate agent. She enjoyed showing her family where she went to school, bringing back many memories.

RECENT EVENTS

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE

The Lady Egan Learning Resource Centre: A New Chapter for Kingsley

Headteacher Sarah Howling, Lady Egan and Foundation Principal Richard Nicholson

Lady Julia Egan, TKS 1954-60 and her daughter Katy, TKS 1975-81

On Thursday 16 May, The Kingsley School was proud to host a special event marking the official opening and naming of our newly redeveloped Learning Resource Centre. We were delighted to welcome Lady Julia Egan (TKS 1954-60) and her daughter Katy (TKS 1975-81), along with governors past and present, Foundation colleagues, former and current staff, parents, students and friends of the school, for what was a truly memorable occasion.

The ceremony, led by Headteacher Dr Sarah Howling, was an opportunity to reflect on Kingsley's proud 140-year history and to celebrate a transformational addition to the school's academic environment. In her address, Dr Howling spoke of the school's enduring values, excellence, kindness, opportunity and community and how the new Learning Resource Centre embodies these principles.

"It is not just a new room," she remarked. *"It is a space where students explore ideas, pursue knowledge, and begin to form the questions that will shape their futures. Today's opening is about more than bricks and bookshelves — it is about what we believe education should be: transformational."*

The ceremony also included a speech from newly appointed Head Student, Millie, who offered a thoughtful student perspective on the impact of the new facility. Once a quiet and underutilised area, the Learning Resource Centre has become a vibrant hub of academic life, supporting independent study, collaborative learning, and reading for pleasure.

"It's now a place that encourages curiosity, creativity, and collaboration," Millie said. *"We see it not just as a library, but as a space that belongs to all of us — a place where we can learn, explore and grow together."*

The highlight of the afternoon was the formal naming of the space in honour of Lady Egan, an alumna of Kingsley and a longstanding supporter of the school. In her address, Lady Egan spoke movingly of her own educational journey, having received a scholarship to attend Kingsley — a gift which, she said, changed the course of her life.

She reflected on the lifelong love of learning instilled in her during her time at the school, a passion that continues to this day through her ongoing study of languages, music and crafts. Now in a position to give back, Lady Egan generously supports Kingsley bursaries, ensuring that more young people can benefit from the same opportunities she received.

"I will always be grateful for the gift of a Kingsley education," she said. *"It opened doors for me, not just academically, but in how I saw myself and the world. I'm proud to support that same opportunity for others."*

In recognition of her enduring connection to Kingsley and her generous support for its future, the Learning Resource Centre will now proudly bear her name.

The **Lady Egan Learning Resource Centre** stands as a symbol of Kingsley's commitment to academic excellence, opportunity, and the power of education to change lives. We look forward to seeing generations of students thrive in this inspiring new space, and to the legacy of Lady Egan continuing to shape young lives for years to come.

Lady Egans's generosity has had a profound impact on our students. If you'd like to explore how you could do the same, please click here or contact Emily Gladman at e.gladman@warwickschools.co.uk or by phone on 01926 776403.

Head student Millie giving a speech

Lady Egan cutting the ribbon

KINGSLEY TO THE HINDU KUSH

Erika Stevenson (TKS 1957-66)
A powerful talk on filming in a war zone – a story of courage, cameras and conflict

On one of the hottest days of the year so far, students at Kingsley were transported to the rugged peaks of the Hindu Kush and the remote villages of 1980s Afghanistan, as former pupil Erika Stevenson gave a truly captivating lunchtime talk in the library. Nearly 50 students from Years 7 to 12 packed into the space to hear about Erika's extraordinary experiences as a pioneering cinematographer, adventurer and storyteller.

Erika, a full-time Kingsley boarder from the age of eight, spoke about her courageous 1987 expedition to Afghanistan during the Soviet-Afghan War. At a time when few women worked behind the camera and fewer still in war zones, Erika crossed the closed border from Pakistan at night, disguised in Afghan clothing, and spent four weeks trekking through the Hindu Kush mountains with a small film crew. Their goal: to document the impact of war on the lives of ordinary Afghan people, especially women.

The journey, as Erika recounted, was anything but easy. There were no mobile phones, no contact with home and no safety net. The group faced tough physical conditions: no toilets or showers, limited food and nights sleeping rough in dangerous territory. Water came from rivers, made safe only by purification tablets, and every piece of camera equipment, medication and battery had to be carried by hand through the unforgiving terrain.

Students were particularly fascinated by some of the vivid anecdotes Erika shared. Locals, many of whom had never seen a camera before, were terrified, mistaking the bulky equipment for a weapon. The crew used a small Polaroid camera to show villagers what photography was, gaining their trust. At one point, Erika was shot at after sneaking out at night to find a toilet in a nearby maize field. Later, as the crew tried to leave Afghanistan, they were detained for four days by tribal authorities in Pakistan.

Despite these dangers, Erika described the experience as life-changing – a rare and humbling insight into a community surviving under extreme hardship, and a deeply formative chapter in her career. Her bravery, humour, and grit were truly inspiring.

We were honoured to welcome Erika back to Kingsley, where her creative journey first began. Her talk was not only an extraordinary insight into global history, filmmaking and resilience – it was a powerful reminder that determination, curiosity and courage can take you anywhere.

Her adventurous spirit and fearless pursuit of truth embody the values of our school and we are so proud to count her among our distinguished alumni.

SUMMER PRIZE GIVING

10 July 2025 – The Royal Spa Centre

This special recognition event was an opportunity to reflect on academic excellence, activities, experiences, sport, trips and initiatives such as 140 Acts of Kindness. A chance to reflect on the progress of the school and the collaborative spirit within Warwick Schools Foundation.

Charlotte Wheeler-Smith was invited back as guest speaker for this year's Summer Prize Giving.

Charlotte was a student at Kingsley School from 2000 to 2007. She studied French, Spanish, Philosophy, History and Latin at A-Level, and went on to complete a joint degree in Law and French at Swansea University. As part of her course, she spent a year in Nantes, where she completed a full French Law degree.

Charlotte graduated in 2011 and secured a place at the Inns of Court School of Law to train for the Bar. In 2013, she was called to the Bar by the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple. She went on to work in-house for several leading international law firms, including Allen & Overy and Slaughter and May.

The main theme of Charlotte's talk was grit, resilience and determination when things are difficult or don't go to plan. She shared some of her failings and how they impacted her and how she learnt from them. She learnt not to give up, how to pick herself up and how to keep going if you don't succeed at your first attempt.

She told the moving story of the birth of her first child whilst on holiday in Amsterdam. After feeling unwell and being told by the doctor it was IBS, she surprisingly gave birth to a baby daughter an hour later. There were complications following the birth and along with her husband they had to discuss very difficult decisions regarding the possibility of end of life for their newly born baby – Evelyn Rose. Her heart was strong and she fortunately pulled through, but it was a fight or flight situation. Today she and her husband also have a little boy to add to their lovely family. She has learned it is not a failure to put children first.

Following the birth of her second child in 2024, Charlotte retrained as a celebrant. She now works with individuals and families to create personal and meaningful ceremonies.

She ended her talk reaffirming what Kingsley School gave her with a message to work hard and never be afraid if life doesn't go according to plan.

If you would like to get involved supporting students by giving a talk, helping with Mock Interviews, or supporting in any other way, please contact tks-alumni@warwickschools.co.uk

Charlotte Wheeler-Smith

SCHOOL NEWS

STUDENTS SHINE IN SISTER ACT

A talented cast of Senior School and Sixth Form students took to the stage of the Bridge House Theatre to deliver an unforgettable production of 'Sister Act'.

BRIDGE HOUSE THEATRE CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

The Bridge House Theatre celebrated 25 years with a performance full of variety including excerpts from previous in-house productions. The theatre is a proud part of Warwick Schools Foundation and hosts sensational schools' productions alongside community projects and professional theatre, comedy and music.

The Bridge House Theatre was opened in 2000 by Dame Judi Dench and, for 25 years, it has been at the forefront of dramatic productions. Here's to the next 25 years!

Dame Judi Dench and Michael Williams with Dr Philip Cheshire (Former Headmaster, Warwick School)

140 ACTS OF KINDNESS

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." – Aesop

As part of the school's 140th birthday celebrations we launched the '140 Acts of Kindness' project at the start of the academic year. This initiative invited everyone at Kingsley – students, staff, parents and alumni – to participate in spreading kindness across our school and beyond. Whether it's offering a listening ear, lending a hand or simply sharing a kind word, each act has the potential to boost wellbeing, strengthen connections and make our school community an even warmer and more supportive place to be.

The goal was simple: to collectively achieve 140 acts of kindness over the course of the year, in celebration of our school's 140-year legacy. In doing so, we reinforced the 'Kingsley Kind' ethos, celebrating both small, everyday gestures and larger efforts that bring people together.

What has made the project so special is the creativity and thoughtfulness shown by students across all year groups. For example, Year 6 have decorated stones with positive messages and distributed them around Christchurch Gardens. In the Sixth Form, our Leadership Team organised a fantastic fundraising event for Guide Dogs for the Blind. With a range of stalls and games, and some four-legged visitors on hand for strokes and cuddles, the event was a huge success – raising both funds and awareness for an important cause.

Fundraising for Guide Dogs

We're thrilled to share that The Kingsley School has been HIGHLY COMMENDED in the 'Giving Something Back' category at the Muddy Stilettos Best Schools Awards 2025.

This national recognition celebrates our 140 Acts of Kindness initiative, a whole-school project created to mark our 140th anniversary by inspiring students, staff and families to carry out small, meaningful acts of kindness within and beyond our community.

Year 6 with their positivity stones

NEXT STEPS EVENT

Huge thanks to Alice Taylor (TKS 2010-14), Lucy Greaves (TKS 2016-22) and Anna Gardner (TKS 1995-2000) who gave their time to talk to Year 12 students about their career journey since leaving school. Listening to former students talk about their experiences of higher education and/or different paths that have led to where they are today, can help in decision making. The students listened attentively to their inspirational insights and words of wisdom.

If you would like to offer your time next summer by giving a 10-minute talk to current Y12 students, please get in touch at **tks-alumni@warwickschools.co.uk**.

Lucy Greaves, Alice Taylor and Anna Gardner

COMMUNITY SPIRIT – WARWICK SCHOOLS FOUNDATION COMMUNITY

Oracy Workshop

In the coming academic year several local primary schools will again be invited to attend an annual Oracy Workshop facilitated by The English-Speaking Union. Oracy supports a rounded education, developing confidence, debating techniques, and active listening skills.

Orchestra of the Swan

Foundation partners Orchestra of the Swan returned for their final concert of the season at Warwick Hall. Interstellar provided an exceptional evening of music, living up to the outstanding standard that they have continually set since the partnership with Warwick Schools Foundation began in 2019.

THE KINGSLEY SCHOOL ART EXHIBITION

The Kingsley School showcased the incredible creativity of our students as part of Warwickshire Open Studios. The Art Exhibition overflowed with talent from our school community.

MOCK INTERVIEW EVENING AT THE KINGSLEY SCHOOL

Tuesday 18 November – 6pm

We are lucky to offer students a chance to develop their interview skills by hosting a Mock Interview Evening.

We are looking for alumni to offer their time to interview two or three individuals over the course of the evening. Each interview lasts approximately 20 minutes followed by a useful feedback session. A CV and some notes about the students' interests and future plans to help direct the interview, will be provided. In-person or virtual interviews possible. If you are able to help, please email **tks-alumni@warwickschools.co.uk**

SCHOOL DIARY DATES

Sixth Form Open Evening
Wednesday 8 October, 5pm-7pm

Whole School Open Morning
Saturday 22 November, 9.30am-1230pm

To register your interest, visit **https://www.thekingsleyschool.co.uk/open-events/**

KINGSLEY SCHOOL ARCHIVES

SPORTING SUCCESS THROUGH THE DECADES

Even before the gymnasium was built in 1888 – on the suggestion of the school's founder, Rose Kingsley – pupils were taking part in regular physical activity. Early records describe 'drill' classes held in the school's largest room, accompanied by the piano. Once completed, the gymnasium quickly became popular, with optional classes on Wednesday afternoons and Friday evenings proving popular.

By the 1890s, organised sport was firmly established. The school began renting part of brewery field on Lillington Road for hockey and cricket, with details of fixtures and results featuring prominently in the school magazine. In 1906, the school acquired its own sports ground, complete with a wooden pavilion and rural views that provided the backdrop for many victories.

Team photos from the late 19th century show cricket captain Margaret Langley (circa 1898), who later received an MBE for her public service at the Home Office. Other archive highlights include Sports Day in 1911, featuring events such as 'Bicycle Tortoise' and the ever-competitive 'Tug o' War'.

Over the decades, sport at Kingsley evolved. Rhythmic calisthenics made an appearance in the 1930s and tennis flourished in the 1940s, with alumna Susan Partridge going on to claim the junior Wimbledon title and later the French Championship. In gymnastics, Mrs Dance – a much-loved teacher from the late 1950s to the 1990s – coached a group of students to national success.

Horse riding has also been a longstanding passion. The school's teams have won national competitions at Hickstead across multiple decades, supported by dedicated staff and alumni. Judo gained popularity in the late 20th century, offering students a chance to try something new.

Team sports remained strong. Hockey and netball developed into core parts of the winter calendar, producing players who competed at county and national level. Former student and player Alison Warrillow now heads up Kingsley's PE department.

In more recent years, Kingsley students have continued to make their mark nationally and internationally. Racing driver Sarah Reader built her own car in Sixth Form before turning professional, while swimmer Rebecca Winn qualified for the Tokyo Olympic Trials and earned a US sports scholarship. The school's ski teams have also excelled, winning both English and British school titles in 2018 and 2019.

Through every era, Kingsley has remained committed to supporting sporting talent and, just as importantly, encouraging all pupils to find a sport they enjoy.

If you have any stories, images or items of interest for the school archives, please email tks-alumni@warwickschools.co.uk.

1946-7 Tennis

1933 Gymnastics

1996 Netball

2018 Skiing

1898 Cricket

1911 Cricket

1993 Hockey

Gym

1976 Horse Riding

1988 Judo

2019 Swimming

1998 Motorsport

1974 Gymnastics

STAYING IN TOUCH

ARE YOUR DETAILS UP TO DATE?

Over the years we have lost contact with many former students and would love to grow our alumni database to keep you up to date with news and events.

To make sure we have your correct details, please go to www.thekingsleyschool.co.uk/community/alumni or forward this link to anyone you think may not be in contact with the school.

All former students, former parents of students and former staff are part of our community. We welcome contact with you all and invite you to stay in touch. Perhaps you have a memory you'd like to share, photograph or image 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. Please don't hestitate to get in touch.

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

WARWICK FOUNDATION CONNECT

Our free networking platform brings together and capitalises on the collective strength of our alumni and communities of Warwick School, King's High and The Kingsley School. Sign up now at **www.warwickfoundationconnect.com**

To preserve the environment and to save on printing costs, we are looking to reduce the number of printed copies we send out. If you are happy to receive the newsletter by email, please make sure you update your details at **www.thekingsleyschool.co.uk/community/alumni/**

Warwick Schools Foundation

Enabling transformation through the power of education

Kingsley School Alumni Relations,
c/o Warwick School, Myton Road, Warwick CV34 6PP
Tel: 01926 776404
tks-alumni@warwickschools.co.uk
www.thekingsleyschool.co.uk/community/alumni