

THE ILEX



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Spring/Summer 2025 No. 136

Reunions and Lunches

News of some wonderful recent and forthcoming events

Bridge House Theatre

We celebrate its 25th birthday

Living or visiting abroad?

Connect with fellow alumnae around the world

A Vision for International Education

What's next for a school which shapes minds and builds futures?

Professional Networks

Enjoy new online opportunities through our networking platform



Welcome from our Landor Association President



The past few months have been the traditionally busy months for the Association. The delightful Landor Carol Service at St Mary's Church took place just before Christmas. With the choir sounding better than ever, a solo from

Anna, who had just won the junior chorister of the year award, charming readings from the girls, all accompanied by King's High organ scholar, Polly, it was a truly lovely way to connect with old friends and meet new ones over mulled wine and mince pies after a memorable service.

We were also very fortunate that Sue Moore accepted the invitation to deliver this year's Landor Lecture. Sue was one of the first old girls to study business and has had a fascinating career mentoring the C-suite. Her advice on not dwelling too much on the things

that don't come naturally to us but focussing instead on becoming excellent at the things we do well and enjoy, was both refreshing and insightful. How she manages to do all that she does and fit in being the Artistic Director of the Loft Theatre is a mystery.

Work goes on behind the scenes to refine the Landor website and to ensure that the Association fulfils its purpose of keeping all of us associates, whether old girls, retired staff, ex governors, parents or friends of our wonderful school, connected. If you have any brilliant ideas, let us know.

On Saturday 1st February we bade goodbye to one of our Landor Fellows. It was the day of Jo Grant's funeral, followed by a wonderful celebration of her life at King's High. It was a testament to her life-affirming, friendly, warm and positive personality, that so many different generations of King's High staff and associates came to honour her memory that extra tables had to be brought in to accommodate us all. Jo's husband John spoke movingly of her life, her dedication to her family and her loyalty to King's High. She was, he said, honoured to be asked to be a Fellow of the Landor Association. We were so very lucky to have her.

Jane Marshall
President of the Landor Association
Former Parent and Chair of Governors of King's High

Latest news

From around The Landor Association

We share here a few stories from King's High School, KHS alumnae, parents, former staff and friends. If you have news, a story or even just an image with a line or two for the next edition, please get in touch. Susie Carr and the rest of our Alumni and Development team would love to hear from you. Email khs-landor@warwickschools.co.uk or telephone 01926 776404.

Recent Leavers' Drinks

It was wonderful to welcome back many of our King's High, Warwick and Kingsley recent leavers from 2024, 2023 and 2022 for festive drinks and a catch-up. This event will be repeated in 2025 – details to follow!



Tom Bosworth, Freddie Turner, Izzie Gore, Maya Mulder-Qureshi, Ashley Frift, Jemima Hunt, Gemma Whitfield



Eowyn Charman, Imogen White, Mia Evan Cook, Phoebe Hales, Freya Laycock

Software Engineering degree apprenticeship

When Jasleen Sandhu (KHS 2017–2022) tried out Lego Robotics Club in Year 8, little did she realise it would spark an interest that would form the basis of her future career.

Encouraged at the time by Mr Reid's passion for the subject and supportive teaching, Jasleen's enthusiasm for the subject led her to study Computer Science at

GCSE, and, now aged 19, she is about to embark on a degree apprenticeship at Barclays, studying software engineering. Jasleen joined initially as Technology Analyst after successfully completing a gruelling three-stage competitive interview process and is looking forward to learning more as she continues her studies.

Jasleen's project-focused work gives her lots of job satisfaction, particularly her current assignment to increase online accessibility for people who are visually impaired or hard of hearing.

Jasleen is an Ambassador for Barclays' network of graduates, apprentices and interns, GAIN, and loves the opportunities this gives her to meet and support new colleagues.

She fondly remembers her time at King's High, particularly being part of the cohort of students who began their studies at the original school site in Warwick and then moved with the school to its new home on the Banbury Road. A highlight from her school years was the group of friends she made at the start of Year 7, with whom she is still in close contact today.



Jasleen in Iceland, enjoying a break away from her degree apprenticeship

Welcome back – добро пожаловать назад

We were delighted to welcome back to King's High Edith Alun-Jones (KHS 2014-21). A linguist, Edith speaks Russian, Ukrainian, French, German and Bulgarian. She would like to build up her Slavic languages... Serbian is next! Edith is currently on a year abroad in Kazakhstan as part of her degree in Russian at UCL and feels she is 'living her best life'.



Edith Alun-Jones

Edith is hugely appreciative of her King's High education and especially for the bursary support which made it possible. She is especially grateful to the teachers who supported her... including those who ignited her love for Russian literature and culture, helped her gain a GCSE in Russian and even transcribed her favourite songs to play during drum lessons! She says *"The bursary was a true motivator for me. I don't think I'd have thrived anywhere else and I know there are so many other girls who deserve to be here"*.

Our bursary programme, kindly funded by our alumnae and the wider King's High community, offers financial assistance to those who may not otherwise be able to afford such an education. Thank you to all those who kindly support the programme.

Thank you Polly

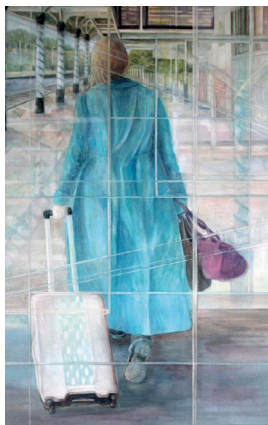
We share news that, after many decades of service, our long-serving Landor Administrator and OGA Secretary, Polly Beidas, decided that it is the right time for her to move on and focus on new challenges. She said goodbye at the end of February. Dr Stephen Burley says *"I'm sure you will join me in thanking Polly wholeheartedly for the years she has dedicated to King's High and to our OGA and Landor community. She has been the heart and soul of our school and she will be missed by all. We wish her all the very best and thank her for all she has done to support us and bring our community together."* We very much hope to continue to see Polly at our lunches and future KHS events.



Polly (seated left) with King's High staff past and present, including two Heads at the 2024 Anniversary Reunions

Former staff news

Ms Sue Lewis (now Sue Blake) taught Art at King's High for many years. Based in Derbyshire, Sue's creative endeavours have taken her around the world, with paintings exhibited in the UK, France and Germany. In 2020, she was shortlisted for the inaugural £10,000 Castlegate Prize and in 2023 she was awarded a residency in Lüneburg, Germany. The resulting exhibition ran throughout autumn 2024 and featured a collection of work depicting people in transit, with the challenge to represent how we feel when on the move.



A watercolour from Sue's collection

Ambulances for Ukraine

In 2022, soon after Russia invaded Ukraine, pupils and staff at King's High School and Warwick, ably supported by the CCF, undertook a long-distance Charity Walk, raising funds to purchase two ambulances for service on the Ukrainian Frontline. In 2025, as the suffering enters its fourth year, our students were once again keen to do something positive. Pupils and staff undertook another one-day Charity Walk, covering 20 miles, on 23 March, to raise money to buy life-saving ambulances which will be driven from the UK to Ukraine for frontline action saving soldiers' and civilian lives. https://www.justgiving.com/page/noel-tapper-gray-1?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

Diary dates

Friday 2 May Founders & Benefactors Lunch and Service
Saturday 10 May Bridge House Theatre 25th Anniversary Showcase
Date tbc in June London Drinks
Saturday 14 June 'All the Fives' Anniversary Reunions
Saturday 28 June WPSA 1980s Summer Ball
Monday 7 July Farewell to Sarah Didlick and Shirley Watson.
 16:30. All welcome. Please let us know at khs-landor@warwickschools.co.uk if you'd like to come along to say farewell.

Bridge House Theatre

25th Anniversary Showcase

Saturday 10th May 2025

The Bridge House Theatre's 25th birthday is a great opportunity to celebrate all the incredible theatre experiences it has provided over the years. The Anniversary Showcase – on Saturday 10 May at 19:00 – will feature students past and present, in short extracts from plays, musicals and sketches, alongside images and displays recalling many of the incredible shows the BHT has hosted.

Those who have been involved in any productions over the years are especially invited to join us (with a guest) to celebrate this wonderful place, to spend some time reminiscing and catching up with others for whom the BHT has provided such an amazing stage in their lives. Theatre staff and teachers will be attending too, so you can finally get some closure on that role you should have been given all those years ago!

If you'd like to join us please complete the form <https://forms.office.com/e/UdmiZva5ii>. And if you cannot, we'd love you to share some of your memories and even pictures, for us to include in the celebration – there's a place on the form for you to write a few words and please email any images to a.douglas@warwicksschools.co.uk. Space is limited, so don't delay and secure your place at what promises to be a wonderful evening.

"The Bridge House means everything to me. It was the stage where I discovered my voice, a place that felt like home, a safe space to make my lifelong friends, a building that fostered my sense of creativity, a space that when everything else in my teen life felt like it was out of my control in a chaotic way, everything was out of my control in a beautiful way, the way drama is."



Bugsy Malone 2012



Amadeus 2010



Much Ado About Nothing 2023



Mary Poppins 2020

"I had a tremendous amount of fun there over the years, but most of all I think of the BHT as a place where the arts were taken seriously, production values were sky high, and we were encouraged and supported in our creativity. We were – and are – so lucky to have the Bridge House Theatre and everyone who works in it."

Emily Wilkes, KHS 2006-13



Don Quixote 2008



Romeo and Juliet 2009

Anniversary Reunions 2025

For leavers from 1955, 1965, 1975, 1985, 1995, 2005 and 2015

Saturday 14th June, 2.00pm-5.30pm

'All the fives' – 1955, 1965, 1975, 1985, 1995, 2005 and 2015 leavers – and staff who taught them, are warmly invited to King's High School for our Anniversary Reunions on Saturday 14 June.

Enjoy a relaxed and informal afternoon at school with drinks, a welcome from the Head Master, tours of the school and complimentary refreshments.

Time: 14:00-17:30

Venue: King's High School, Banbury Rd, Warwick

Dress: Casual.

These anniversary reunions are for those who left at the end of the U6 in those years, plus classmates who left earlier.

While there is no charge to attend, please register at <https://forms.office.com/e/BuTiEhE1LR> so we know who's coming and can cater accordingly.



Last year's 1994 leavers' reunion with Mrs Anderson (KHS Headmistress 1987-2001)

Why come to a KHS anniversary reunion?

When a KHS alumna receives an invitation to a King's High reunion, there must be many, varied reactions: curiosity; enthusiasm; nostalgia; apprehension perhaps since not all memories of school are good ones. Remember, too, those lessons on calculus. Did we really have to wear that uniform? And whatever loosened those once-so-strong ties of friendship?

Yet, if your busy life permits, you should come to at least one reunion. Why? Well, many say a reunion experience is often invigorating. Rather like being on a toboggan that is about to enter a banked curve just a little too fast. Some faces are a blur; others are, happily, instantly familiar.

The passing of time seems altered. As you meet with former classmates, the present disappears, and a more intense, shared past envelops you. Self-awareness often deepens as, with conversation and recollection, you realise how parts of you (and others) stay the same, while new talents, skills, relationships and experiences have shaped the person you now are.

Our reunions offer a chance to gather afresh with those who were a significant part of your life in surroundings which, we believe, will be welcoming, reassuring and, yes, invigorating.

With thanks to one of our former teachers who kindly penned these thoughts.

Are you a KHS alumna with a child at one of our schools?

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

Owen James (WS 1993-2003) and Arun Sachdev (WS 1991-2002) are some of many Warwick Schools Foundation alumni who currently have children at King's High, Warwick, 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 an OW, KHS or 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 at <https://forms.office.com/e/PCajid47zz> as soon as possible so we can give The Craftsman an idea of numbers.



Upper Sixth artwork

2025

OGA Annual Lunch

Saturday 22nd March 2025

KHS Head Master Stephen Burley was delighted to welcome over 40 old girls, former and current staff and students for the OGA Annual Lunch. After refreshments in the foyer, current Sixth Formers escorted guests on tours of the school, giving everyone a chance to see what amazing opportunities our students are offered at King's High today. An excellent two-course lunch was enjoyed in the school Dining Room, with wine flowing amongst shared school memories.

After the meal, which was prepared by our wonderful King's High catering staff, Dr Anne Whitehouse (KHS 1980-87) gave a talk about redressing gender balance and pulling back feminine power. It was a privilege to hear Anne's personal account of her journey, from prodigious young scientist with a PhD from Cambridge and a post-doctoral fellowship from the Engineering and Physical Science Research Council, to an "unexpected revolutionary" on a mission to detox the patriarchy. Through her presentation she gave practical advice for how each member of the audience can bring about change, from Sixth Form student to those who left King's High in the 1950s. Anne's honesty and insight made a powerful impact, and her words will stay with attendees for many years to come. Anne ended her talk with the gift of a book for all guests and charged them with the task of passing on what they had learned that day to another.

Dr Burley warmly thanked Anne for her inspiring and informative talk, and student Bella gave a heartfelt vote of thanks to Anne. The event concluded with a rousing rendition of Jerusalem, which was expertly led by Gaynor Keeble (KHS 1974-1981).

All King's High alumnae and former members of staff are warmly welcome at next year's OGA Lunch. Watch this space for further details.



Dr Anne Whitehouse presents 'A whirlwind tour into the hidden levels of our minds'



Joanne De Groot (née Bray), Helen Brebner (née Franks) and Gaynor Keeble

Feedback and suggestions for next year's OGA Annual Lunch

Whether or not you joined us at this year's OGA Lunch, we'd love to hear your thoughts and suggestions to help shape future events. It would be really helpful if you could spare a few minutes sharing your thoughts at <https://forms.office.com/e/BMh9WVAR0f>



Anne Whitehouse and Phyllis King (née Wylie)



Kerry-Anne Browne (née O'Sullivan) and Kelly Hamblett (née Turrall)



Alison Cutner (née Knight) and Mary Knight (née Henry)



Penny Beswick (née Dickinson) and Rome Sigsworth (née Sleight)



Welcome

At home and abroad

Events and News

Warwick Prep Former Staff Lunch

In January, twenty former Prep staff joined us back at school to celebrate their years of teaching and reconnect with each other. One of the defining events in the annual Landor calendar, the Warwick Prep Former Staff Lunch gives those who taught in the school the opportunity to reunite, relive favourite memories and find out the latest news within the school.

Current Year 5 students were delighted to show-off their 'digital native' skills when guests joined students to sit in on part of their Computer Science lesson. A great time was had by all, and it was very special to watch the link from past generations of our school stretching across the years to ten-year-olds in the classroom that day. For guests and hosts alike, it was a truly memorable experience.



2025 Prep Former Staff Lunch

Alumni Armed Forces Dinner

The school is proud of a number of King's High former pupils who are currently serving or retired from the Armed Forces. We are delighted, too, that so many students enjoy our thriving joint CCF, which develops leadership, teamwork, initiative and self-reliance, helping them become more confident and independent.

Current students Sophie and Pippa were pleased to meet alumni from a range of services at our recent Warwick Schools Foundation Armed Forces Chapel Service and Dinner.



KHS students Sophie and Pippa and OW Off Cdt Ben Watson

Hong Kong Alumni Gathering

We are delighted to now have a number of students from Hong Kong who board at King's High. They are very much a part of our community. On 22 September a number of our Warwick Schools Foundation alumni in Hong Kong enjoyed gathering at the Indian Recreation Club in Causeway Bay. It was especially lovely to see Gail Southward (KHS 1978-85) who lives out in Hong Kong.



The Hong Kong gathering

King's High Alumna helps improve Primary Maths Education

Joanne De Groot (KHS 1974-81) has combined her past experience in research science and teaching in a new business venture to develop diagnostic mathematics tests for primary school pupils. These tests help identify each learner's individual strengths, weaknesses and skills, rather than just receiving a test score. Joanne founded Dovepoint Education in March 2024 with her nephew, a Cambridge maths graduate, and together the duo are working with primary schools across the state and private sector to help children improve their ability in maths. Joanne was recently awarded a King's High 'Emerging Talent' grant (£500) to fund a project piloting the use of her diagnostic tests at Warwick Prep.

Recognition for services to literature and the arts

Congratulations to Sarah Hosking (KHS 1952-59) who was awarded an MBE for services to literature and the arts. This is in recognition not only of her initiation of the Hosking Houses Trust but for innovative work in the world of government arts subsidy during the 1970s and 80s and her work in the NHS on environmental issues.



Sarah Hosking

The Landor Lecture 2025

Sue Moore (KHS 1960-67)

How to do work you love (and get paid for it)

Landor Association Fellow Sue Moore (née Ashton), one of the first King's High girls to study Business at university, has had a stellar career working internationally as an executive mentor with clients such as Sony, Microsoft, Yahoo, Cambridge University and the Dorchester Hotel. We were delighted to hear Sue give this year's Landor Association Lecture. She reminisced about Headmistress Miss Hare (KHS 1948-1970) and her black poodle, Delta, and the wonderful Art teacher Mrs Soren (KHS 1934-1965) who was one of life's positive encouragers.

Sue's lecture centred on a number of sage words of advice which resonated with those studying, in the world of work, or about to enter it.

Use your strengths

Peak performers have something in common, they are extremists; they make extreme use of their strengths.

The greatest area of potential in each of us is where we are most strong. Working on our strengths is hard enough. Working on our weaknesses will never make us excellent. It might get us to the middle, but it will never get us to the front. Focus on the engine in yourself, not the trailer.

Expertise and talent

As a potential employee make yourself compelling by finding an employer who you know you would work best with and needs your expertise and talent.

Time and again, surveys have proved that under 20% of all employees feel they have the chance to do what they do best every day.

Live your values

Live your values; don't laminate them. Promotion can take us away from the things we love.

Outcomes and people first

Great leaders lead by outcomes, not tasks. Great companies build jobs around people. They don't squeeze people into boxes. Hope is not a strategy.

Be true to yourself

Think about your vocation, from the Latin vocare (to call). We never retire from our calling. Inherently, people don't change but they can develop. A rose can be a better rose but it can't be a daffodil.

Children

Children are not vessels to be filled but fires to be lit.

Follow your dreams

Martin Luther King said 'I have a dream'; not 'I have a 218 page strategic plan. Care to see it?'. W B Yeats, a favourite of Sue's said 'I have spread my dreams under your feet, Tread softly because you tread on my dreams.'

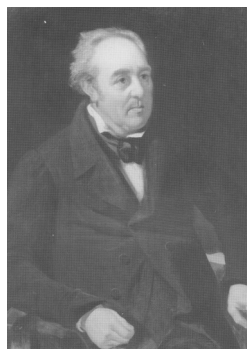
Set talent free

The best leaders build and sustain a positive culture where they set talent free. King's High has built a great culture where options are widened and everyone is given the chance to explore their talents.



Hellen Dodsworth, KHS students Joana and Eleanor, Sue Moore, Jane Marshall and Stephen Burley

Happy 250th Birthday Walter Savage Landor



Walter Savage Landor
1775-1864

On 30th January, members of the English department and Sixth Form English Literature students gathered round the bust of Walter Savage Landor to celebrate his 250th birthday.

In a long and active life of 89 years Walter Landor produced a considerable amount of work in various genres. This can perhaps be classified into four main areas— prose, lyric poetry, political writings including epigrams, and Latin. On his 250th birthday anecdotes about his life were shared and some of his poems were read.

Walter Landor was born in the house that bears his name at the top of Smith Street, Warwick, the original home of King's High School for 140 years until 2019.



The school celebrates Landor's 250th birthday

Online Networking Platform

Warwick Foundation Connect

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

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

www.warwickfoundationconnect.com offers you the opportunity to:

Connect

Find, connect and reconnect with fellow KHS Alumnae and other alumni, parents and friends of the Warwick Schools Foundation community.

Expand

Access a professional network to find people you should know. Look for or offer advice, work experience or job opportunities.

Give back

Introduce, employ and/or offer to act as a mentor or give a bit of support to fellow members of the community including recent school leavers.



Download the App

To access Warwick Foundation Connect on your mobile device download the Graduway Community app. When you are prompted to enter the name of your institution, enter: Warwick Foundation.



Geographical Groups

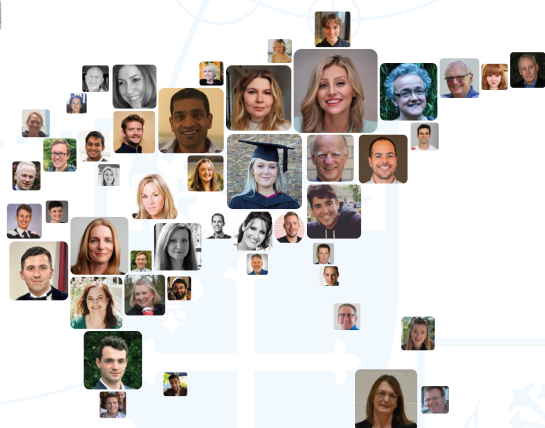
Living or visiting abroad? Check out and/or join our geographical groups to connect with fellow alumni overseas or simply search the directory for KHS Alumnae in a particular country.



Professional Networks

Join one of our first professional networks to exchange industry insights, develop collaborations and make new connections.

- Law • Finance • Biotechnology and Medicine
- Entrepreneurs • Property and Construction • Armed Forces. More networks coming soon!



Decade and Year-Groups

Join the KHS Alumnae group – an area for KHS Alumnae to connect with each other, share photos, updates and hold group chats. Join a KHS Alumnae decade group – there are groups for leavers from every decade since the 1940s.

If it is your anniversary year, join your year-group. We currently have year-groups for KHS Alumnae leavers from 1965, 1970, 1975, 1985, 1995, 2005 and 2015.

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.

Once registered, you can update your profile, tick what help you might be seeking or are prepared to offer and then start exploring the platform. You can message people through the platform, add photos, post in any of the group feeds and search the directory of over 1,600 members already registered.

Special Interest Groups

Join our sports groups to check out the latest news on events and matches. See what our Foundation Book Groups are reading!

“I signed up to Warwick Connect to aid my search for a summer internship as a second year on an undergraduate degree. I reached out to lots of people for advice. Many came back offering CV advice, interview prep, insights into their sector and even the offer of some work experience, with lots of people more than willing to give up some time and take a call with myself. And I’ve been successful in receiving an offer for a summer internship!”

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.

A Vision for International Education

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.

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

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

Warwick
Schools
Foundation
International



Our Landor Community

Kissing It Better

Empowering our young people to be positive contributors to society is at the heart of our educational offering, and we encourage students to take part in charity work during their time at King's High and beyond. One example of this is our work with the Kissing It Better charity; a partner organisation of all schools on our Warwick campus, whose mission is to positively impact the lives of older people and those with chronic and terminal illnesses.

Over the years, hundreds of pupils from King's High and Warwick have volunteered with Kissing It Better. We know that, for many, their experience has been transformational and has given them greater insights, understanding and confidence in all manner of ways. To celebrate this partnership we are looking for testimonials from alumnae to share with our Kissing It Better and wider Foundation community.

If you volunteered with KiB and are happy to provide a testimonial on what the experience gave you, please email khs-landor@warwickschools.co.uk.

WPSA

WPSA (Warwick Preparatory School Association), a charity run by a team of volunteer parents and teachers, has a commitment to devoting time to furthering the great opportunities that Warwick Prep has to offer. As well as running the uniform shop WPSA organises fun-filled events and activities, donating funds raised to enhance the children's educational experience.

Fundraising events this term have included a delightful Magic Show for Years 1 and 2, and a colourful Disco for Years 3 to 6 (including Years 3-4 boys).



1980s Summer Ball

Warwick Preparatory School is celebrating 80 incredible years, and to mark the occasion, WPSA invites you to an unforgettable 80s-themed Ball Extravaganza!

This spectacular evening on Saturday 28 June in Warwick Hall is open to all Foundation parents and guardians (past, present, and future) and promises a night of nostalgia, glamour, and celebration! Dress: black tie. Tickets available at www.bridgehousetheatre.co.uk/show/back-to-80s-summer-ball/



Young Minds Matter

King's High is proud of its close links to local Warwickshire-based charity, Young Minds Matter. Their vision is of a world where every young person receives the support they deserve to build resilience, self-esteem and focus to enable them to live a purposeful and happy life.

The charity offers free 1:1 mentoring sessions in schools for children aged 5 to 18. Chief Executive, Nikki Rimmington, herself a King's High parent, explains: "Most students attend a weekly session with an experienced and qualified mentor who provides a safe space where young people can share any anxieties or concerns that they might be experiencing. It's such vital work."

Keen to address challenges in a positive and optimistic way, founder and YMM Trustee, Sue Roberts held a concert in 2017 in Warwick Hall to raise awareness and address taboos around young peoples' mental health issues. The concert was a resounding success and the YMM as it is today, grew from there.

New iterations of that first trailblazing concert in 2017 have entertained sell-out audiences in the years that followed, and in November 2025, Warwick Hall will again play host to a night of fantastic talent, inspiring speakers, and unforgettable moments. Tickets are available <https://bridgehousetheatre.ticketsolve.com/ticketbooth/shows/1173663356>.

KHAPS

KHAPS (our King's High Association of Parents and Staff) began the year with an energetic and effortlessly fun Burns Night Ceilidh, featuring both a Ceilidh dance band and a pipers band. Delicious haggis, neeps and tatties were served by the school caterers.



Applications for the annual Personal Achievement Awards have been reviewed, with successful candidates to be announced at school assembly in April.

Fundraising efforts by KHAPS this term include sales of bobble hats (popular with the girls who went to France in February on the school ski trip!), a fun chocolate tombola for the girls (to be held on 9th April), a second-hand uniform sale and the annual Easter Raffle with a luxury Fortnum & Mason Easter Hamper up for grabs!

