

## Author Femi Fadugba comes to KEGS

### IN THIS ISSUE

From the Head	3
Captains' Blog	3
Drama trip to 'The Woman in Black'	4
Stephen presents his father's silver medal to the school	5
CCF Awards	5
Mr Lowe's London Marathon Challenge	5
Sports Report	6
The World Outside KEGS	7
Service Awards	9
Diary Dates	11



### LISA FRIEL, KEGS LIBRARIAN & DHAIRYA GAJERA, YEAR 11

On Wednesday 6 October KEGS was lucky enough to have the author Femi Fadugba give a presentation on his life, his writing and the physics behind his new book, *The Upper World*, to Years 10 and 11. This is the first event of this kind that we have been able to have at school for some considerable time and KEGS was one of only eight schools Femi visited.

He held the boys captivated for the presentation, fielded some very sharp questions and then chatted with them individually as he signed books. Although the lower school could not be accommodated for the presentation, Femi also spoke with lots of them and signed books during their lunch break and after school. He went down very well with both staff and the boys:

It was great to be able to offer this experience to the boys and to see them all respond so well to a visiting author. As you can imagine, all the library copies of *The Upper World* are out at the moment and there is quite a long list waiting to read it next! Thanks too to Dhairya for his review of Femi's visit and also to the other students who added their comments overleaf.

### LISA FRIEL, KEGS LIBRARIAN

KEGS recently welcomed Femi Fadugba to talk to the Middle School (Years 10-11) about his freshman book, entitled 'The Upper World', soon to become a Netflix production in 2022. The genre-defying thriller pursues two 15-year-olds, 15 years apart, and their transtemporal journey to try and fix where their lives fell apart.

Femi started off the talk with a brief introduction to the story, humorously explaining some of the esoteric maths in the book through comparisons to members of the audience, and their containment of 450,000,000,000J of energy as well as the backstories and inspirations behind some of the characters. Having grown up in Chicago, Peckham and Togo, he described how he uses his childhood upbringing to present the protagonists of his epic saga, the lovestruck, curiously intuitive Esso



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## Author Femi Fadugba comes to KEGS /2

and the intelligent, indomitable Rhia. For me, this helped me to further identify with the characters and in drawing personal connections to them, having known their stimuli as I read the book over the following days, pensively depicting all the scenes in my head.

He moved on to taking questions from the audience, providing further insight into hidden details of the book and how he motivated himself to write his 400-page thriller over the course of 2 years. He explained how habit was more important than motivation and incorporating writing into his daily routine was the key to keeping on track. However, he was clear that he tried to avoid devoting all his focus towards writing, elucidating that constantly thinking about just one thing could drive anyone insane.

Esso's main goal is to stay alive after finding himself subjugated in the middle of a gang war, with the first sentence of the book reading "It takes an impressive mix of stupidity and bad luck not to be in a gang, but still find yourself in the middle of a gang war". Rhia on the other hand just wants to make it as a pro footballer and find her mother who she never knew. The book itself vacillates between Esso's present in 2021 and Rhia's present in 2036, with the timelines almost merging as the book continues.

Femi exploits the two different timelines to keep the reader gripping the book, each chapter ending on a cliff-hanger more intense than the last.

At the end of the talk, students had the option to buy books to get them signed, and even get selfies with Femi. Personally, I can't wait to binge-watch the Netflix series next year, and the book itself.

### DHAIRYA GAJERA, YEAR 11

#### Comments from Y10 & 11

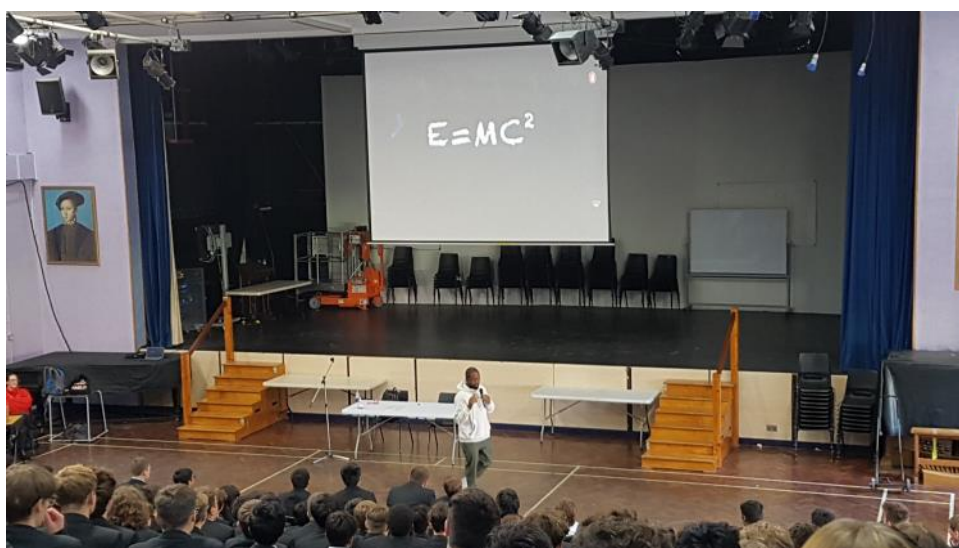
*"I really enjoyed learning Femi's story of how he got to where he has in life – being born in Togo, moving to the USA and then the UK and going to Oxford – and especially about his study of physics. Hearing his journey inspired me to go the extra mile, and it was very special to hear him read his own story and receive a signed book from him, which I am currently immersed in reading"* James Williams, Year 11

*"He seemed a really nice guy and very interesting"*

*"I have read 150 pages already and it's really good"*

*"A really funny guy"*

*"I wouldn't expect an author to use physics in the way he did, definitely going to read his book"*



## From the Head

**TOM CARTER**

The 2021/22 academic year is now well underway and I hope that all those who are new to KEGS have settled in and started to discover all that the school has to offer. This newsletter highlights some of the notable things that have happened since the start of term and also celebrates some significant achievements outside of school.

This term we have tried to raise the profile of reading and so the visit of author Femi Fadugba was particularly timely. His talk to middle school students covered a wide range of topics – the process of creative writing – but also a lot about his life and what he has learnt from his experiences. In recent weeks we have also had contact and visits from a number of former students, keen to support the school in various ways. One of those visits is featured in this newsletter.



The magnificent efforts of students and teachers kept academic learning going throughout the 2020/21 academic year, but as I am sure we are all aware, the bubble systems and other Covid restrictions had a heavy impact on the wider extra-curricular life of the school. I am therefore delighted to see the resurgence in clubs and activities, be that sporting activities, fixtures, musical ensembles, drama, the CCF or the wide range of clubs taking place. We have planned our times of day specifically to try to enable the maximum possible extra-curricular activities as well as the minimum possible congestion in eating, social and recreational areas and although there are some consequences of this, I am pleased with how everyone has adapted.

As I have said in a recent parentmail, we are now seeing a rise in Covid cases, particularly in Year 9 – but from the information I have, this reflects the local and national picture and we have perhaps been fortunate not to have been more badly affected with either staff or student absence. We are still exercising some caution – for example our assembly programme is not yet back to “normal” – but it was pleasing to be able to commemorate the school’s foundation recently – and I look forward to other traditional events such as our Remembrance ceremony on 11th November, the Autumn concert, the Carol Service and Prize Giving – although I am sure that there will be Covid measures in place for all of these. I also hope to be able to see a good number of parents and friends of the school at the PA Quiz in the second half of term.

I wish everyone well for a good half term before the second part of the Autumn term.

## Captains' Blog

**SHYAAM BALASEGARAM, BEN BISHOP & LIBBY SIMMONS, SCHOOL CAPTAINS**

With the first half term of the academic year rolling to a close, we can look back and see how KEGS has been plunging itself back into pre-COVID levels of academic and extra-curricular activity.

The trialling of our new timetable, which leaves a thirty-minute overlap when all years are having lunch simultaneously, has been a great success in resuscitating the extra-curricular life of KEGS. Many more clubs, sports teams and societies have been able to restart across the school, especially those which rely on the membership of students across all year groups. Previously, due to restrictions, they couldn't mingle. These include the brilliant choir, PRISM, debating society, games club, charities committee, as well as a multitude of sports teams, and rehearsals for the excellent upcoming whole-school musical, Spamalot. It's wonderful to see students of all ages coming together to celebrate and participate in what they love to do beyond the classroom.



Furthermore, house events are underway, with bi-weekly house assemblies occurring to fuel house spirit, though this has not been diminished by the year of dormant house events. With house music fast approaching, practice has begun as each house vies to win one of the most popular and prestigious house events of the year.

External events are also re-emerging, with school trips, for example to the Globe Theatre and art galleries, occurring, as well as CCF overnight trips taking place. Visits from external individuals have also happened, with talks from the author Femi Fadugba on his book, *The Upper World*, and the art historian Dr Matt Lodder. For the first time in a long year and a half, events like the Quiz, organised by the Parents Association and Christmas Concert are coming up after half term.

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## Captains' Blog /2

Another important development enriching school life is the wider integration of PSHE for all year groups, with weekly instead of biweekly sessions, focusing for example on friendship, toxic masculinity, art, and mindfulness, improving students' wider knowledge and wellbeing.

October is also Black History Month, and the student body has excelled in providing assemblies, boards, form time sessions, drama lessons and presentations celebrating and illuminating stories that have been disregarded, specifically the voices of black creatives who have done remarkable things to influence the worlds of art, politics, science and literature. Stories left out of the curriculum, academic books, papers and articles left unread and not recommended, and creations overlooked – these forms of art deserve recognition, so this month has been for learning about the achievements of many black individuals.

We'd like to thank the Equalities Committee for their excellent work this Black History Month, and also congratulate our newly elected School Councillors on their success in the elections this week, as well as wish everyone a restful half term holiday.

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## Drama trip to 'The Woman in Black'

DEEP THAKKAR, YEAR 11

The Fortune Theatre's 'Woman in Black' played by just two actors was an intense and powerful experience that ended leaving your nerves shredded from its soul-piercing scares and gut-wrenching tale.

We meet an old Arthur Kipps, (Terence Wilton), who visits a young and enthusiastic actor (Max Hutchinson) to practise before telling his family of the terror-inducing events that have been a burden on him ever since their occurrence. The actor convinces Kipps to reenact his story in the form of a play and it is within this multi-layered premise that the audience learns of and becomes moved by Kipps' chilling encounters with the Woman in Black. It also meant we were able to witness how old Arthur Kipps and the Actor improved their acting as the play went on, as well as understand how vastly one's role as an actor can affect one's real life, shown incredibly well with the pauses in the storytelling in which Kipps and the Actor discuss and portray the overwhelming experience of acting such a haunting tale, and how it can alter and be improved by the emotions and experiences of one's real life. As a drama student, it was this as well as the incredible acting that made the piece resonate and stay with me.

Moving on to the incredible acting, it has to be said that it takes immense skill to effectively act out a horror story and make it scary; Max Hutchinson and Terance Wiltson were the embodiments of this. Their voice, facial expressions and physicality were all so wonderfully intertwined and layered, which allowed for such strong and emotional moments that one couldn't help but be connected to and feel for the characters; As they went through their highs and lows so did we. It was also their acting that enhanced the piece and allowed for truly frightening moments; their reactions were expressive and clear and their screams and cries were so real to life and perfectly timed that the whole theatre also ended up jumping in fear, a few screaming, which developed our connection to the piece even further. This was another key takeaway for me and my fellow drama students: what makes a scary moment soul-shaking is not the scary event in itself but rather the reactions to it.

Finally, I have to mention the genius use of set, sound and lighting design. Being the 3rd smallest West End theatre with just 432 seats, the Fortune theatre allowed for an intimate experience in which the actors were able to use not only the stage but also the whole theatre including the aisles effectively. This made chilling shocks even more frightful. The stage was proscenium arch and was cut in half with the use of gauze. This meant that the main area used for acting was small and simplified, which along with the minimal set allowed for creative miming and storytelling through physicality. However, once it was backlit, the gauze revealed a more complex set behind it which allowed for a variety of scenes such as different rooms of the house and a graveyard to be shown. When behind the gauze, it also heightened the sense of isolation felt by the characters. To make up for the minimal set in front of the gauze, sound designers Rod Mead and Sebastian Frost, helped our imaginations with their effective use of SFX through soundscapes such as a train station and busy London street as well as through recordings of voices and screams. This heightened our belief in the various scenes and enabled even more investment in the story. One key moment which the front rows [including me] experienced was when mist was used to create a fog that blocked our vision completely- it was a sensorily exciting and unique moment that built up tension and our anticipation. The imaginative use of lighting through its different colours, switching between fresnel and spotlight, varying intensity, gobos, and flickering developed the locations and eerie atmosphere as well as both the actors and our emotions even further.

Overall, watching 'The Woman In Black' was an incredible experience that not only provoked horrific scares, but was also dare I say life-changing through the way it gets you to contemplate the ever changings of life and its fragility. As a Drama student, it was even more enriching, eye-opening and inspiring. I didn't know what I was missing throughout the last 2 years when the theatres were shut till I saw this. With it being at least 5 stars, I would 100% recommend it. Thank you so much to Mrs Garnish, Mr Ager, Ms Wiltshire, and Miss Foreman for organising and making this trip possible.

## Stephen presents his father's silver medal to the school

We were delighted to receive a visit recently from Stephen Abbott, the son and nephew of two of our Edwardian era school captains. Stephen's father was H H Abbott, school captain in 1908, and his uncle was C C Abbott, school captain in 1906. Stephen very generously presented Mr Carter with his father's silver medal as a gift to the school - silver medals are awarded to all school captains and deputies at the end of their terms of office and it is a great honour to receive one back!

Earlier this year, and quite by chance, we had acquired an old postcard of the school which had been sent by C C Abbott to a friend in France in 1905. Stephen was fascinated to see this and it is quite extraordinary to have had two completely unrelated connections to a family who were at KEGS over 110 years ago!



## CCF Awards

Congratulations to Major Seaman and Colour Sgt Senith Fernando who received their Lord Lieutenant's Certificates of Merit at an award ceremony at Ingatestone Hall recently. Senith was nominated for his contribution to cadets and Corps of Drums and Major Seaman for many years work in CCF and ACF.



## Mr Lowe's London Marathon challenge for Mogonjet charity

Many congratulations to Head of Year 11, Ryan Lowe, who ran the London Marathon in early October in a fantastic 4:01:53 in aid of Hand in Hand, the charity that supports both the Mogonjet School and the New Hope Childrens' Home in Kenya. Mr Lowe was slightly hampered by injury but nonetheless, really enjoyed his first ever marathon experience and highly recommends the London marathon to anyone thinking about doing it. So far he has raised over £6100 for the charity including £1776 from the KEGS non uniform day. And gift aid from his sponsors will add at least £880 more making a grand total of over £7000. Thank you to everyone for your generous support.



# Sports Report

**JOHN DAVIES, HEAD OF MIDDLE SCHOOL**

## CRICKET

Well done to both the Y9 & Y10 cricket teams for making the final stages of the county cup cricket competitions. Unfortunately both teams were second best to Brentwood School in the Semi-finals. Still a fantastic achievement for both squads.



## FOOTBALL

The season started with a 1<sup>st</sup> XI National Cup fixture against Beauchamps, and in an end to end encounter. KEGS were trailing 1-0 with 3 minutes left on the clock in extra time, but managed to score two late goals to clinch victory. They then made it two wins out of two after beating St Martin's in a tight affair, scoring 3 late goals to win 4-1 in the MESSA Cup. KEGS then bounced back from a National Cup defeat against Southend, with a 4-1 win over Saffron Walden in the Essex Cup.

After a long wait the Y11 football team were back in action. The team emerging victorious against a battling Anglo European team, winning 4-2 and making it through to the 2<sup>nd</sup> round.

In their first match of the season the Y10 team battled back from behind in dramatic fashion to win penalty shootout against Maltings Academy in the Essex Cup. They then made it two wins from two after beating WDF 5-0 in the first round of the MESSA Cup, special mention to Alex MacSween for scoring all 5 goals!

## RUGBY

For the first time since 2019, KEGS rugby teams took to the fields against Bancrofts, with a win for Y8 in their rugby ready contest, and both the Y9 & Y10 displaying a fantastic team spirit and never give up attitude in their matches.

Next up was the first full block fixture at Bedford Fields against King John School. In their first ever games of rugby the Y7a and b teams both won, the year 8 team also playing in their first full game of rugby were narrowly edged out by a late comeback from the visitors. The Y9 team again showed their skills and collective spirit in an entertaining draw. The year 10 game was another close affair with KEGS scoring in the last play of the game, but were unable to convert and fell just short of the win.

Y7 continued their fine start to the season the next week with strong wins against Saffron Walden. The Y8 squad continued to show promise and despite missing a few players produced a competitive performance against a strong Saffron Walden team, with 3 players making their debuts.

## ATHLETICS

Well done to Archie Durham (Y10), who following his win in the Essex County School's Championships was selected to represent in Essex in the South of England AA Inter Counties Championships, competing and winning in the 1500m! Superb effort Archie.



## The World outside KEGS

### YEAR 12 MUSICIANS ARE FUNDRAISING FOR FARLEIGH HOSPICE

On Monday 13 December four Y12 musicians will be performing a mini Christmas concert at Farleigh Hospice in Chelmsford. Anthony, Akshay, Ben and Neil, who are all studying music A level, will be bringing some festive cheer to the residents. The boys are also raising some money for the charity at the same time, and if you would like to help, no matter how small, please donate here

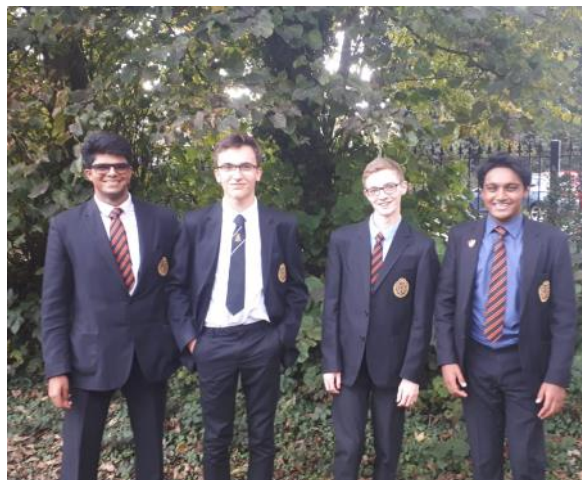
[www.farleighhospice.org/donate](http://www.farleighhospice.org/donate)

*Farleigh Hospice provides hospice care to people affected by life-limiting illnesses and bereavement across mid Essex.*

*£5 one-off payment will help the charity to prepare home cooked meals for their patients*

*£10 one-off payment will help the charity to run their Easibreathe class for those experiencing breathlessness*

*£20 one-off payment will help the charity to fund a much needed bereavement support services for families, children and carers.*



### GOLD AND SILVER MEDALS FOR DYLAN AT NATIONAL SCHOOLS GAMES FINALS

Many congratulations too to Dylan Robins, Year 9, who won gold and silver medals in the National Schools Games national finals in early September. Earlier this year Dylan was selected to join the Under 15 boys England team competing in the Laser Run events at the finals which were held at Loughborough University. Dylan suffered a setback in August when he broke his collarbone at the training camp he was attending in Dorset, and it was doubtful if he would be able to attend at all, but a lot of physio, fitness training on the static bike, and kick sets in the swimming pool along with a whole heap of determination meant he was able to go along and hopefully to put in a reasonably credible performance too. Dylan, together with all the athletes from around the country spent their days watching the events, participating in team building exercises, speaking to various athlete mentors and attending athlete development workshops.

Dylan started his campaign with the individual race - 4 laps of continuous shooting and running against 25 other athletes. He exceeded his expectations and finished in 10th place, and as third scorer for his team he helped them win a team silver medal.



Then it was on to the mixed relays with 25 teams competing. Dylan was partnered with Daisy who got off to a great start and lead the race for her two circuits, handing over to Dylan with a strong lead. Dylan remained calm under pressure, and having gained race confidence and his arm feeling good, shot well and picked up his pace from Friday's race and continued to lead the way to win the gold medal for the pair. Well done to Dylan for finding the courage and perseverance to make his way to the games and we are delighted that he had such an amazing experience there especially after such a long period of cancelled events. Find out more about the School Games here

[www.schoolgamesfinals.org](http://www.schoolgamesfinals.org)

### KARATE BLACK BELT FOR JACK

Many congratulations to Jack Neicho in Year 10 who has passed his black belt grading in karate, making him a 1st Dan. Jack started karate at the age of 5 and has worked his way through the belts at a steady pace, with the black belt being the ultimate achievement in his chosen sport. The minimum age for taking the black belt grading is 14 and he is now just one of a handful of boys his age nationally that has reached this milestone. Jack has shown dedication and determination to achieve his goal by training three times, and sometimes four times a week, where time allows. Jack is now working towards his 2nd Dan but the minimum age to achieve this is 18. In the meantime he is passing on his skills by teaching the younger children in his club, The Southern England School of Karate, twice a week. Well done!



## The World outside KEGS

### CHRISTOPHER IS GREAT BRITISH OPEN KARATE CHAMPION

Many congratulations to Christopher Stewart in Year 11 who has enjoyed ongoing successes at his first karate competitions since the pandemic started.

At the start of this term, Christopher travelled to Birmingham for the Great British Open Karate Championships. He was selected to compete in the individual kata (performance of a set routine), team kata, individual kumite (fighting) and team kumite events. He did well in his kata categories before taking gold in one of his kumite events making him a Great British Open karate champion! He also made it all the way into the quarter finals of another before being injured and having to take a six week break from all contact sport

Hot on the heels of Birmingham, Christopher was successfully selected to not only represent but also help to coach the England karate team at the Karate World Championships in Cluj, Romania, in September. He was unfortunately unable to compete in his fighting events because

of his injury from Birmingham but he was able to take part in his individual kata category. He found himself within an extremely large pool of competitors but did really well within it. He spent the rest of the competition helping to coach and supervise the younger squad members from the floor of the World Championships for the very first time in his sporting career to date. It was a real testament to Christopher that he was selected to do this at just 15 years of age, having been a black belt for the past three.

GCSE exam timetable permitting, Christopher has already been told the great news that he has been selected to represent England once again at the Karate World Championships in Fort Lauderdale in sunny Florida in June of next year. He hopes that his GCSEs let him make it there on time!



### JOE'S SUCCESS AT ESSEX SCHOOLS GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS

Many congratulations to Joe Sidwell, Year 9, who represented KEGS at the Essex Schools Golf Championship on 18 October. Joe shot 4 over for his round achieving runner up in the U16 gross competition before becoming the winner in the U16 net competition! After this brilliant result Joe is now waiting to hear whether he has qualified for the South East Regional Finals. Well done Joe!



### FORMULA 4 SUCCESS IN ITALY FOR OLLIE

Huge congratulations to Ollie Bearman, who left Year 12 in the summer, who has become the first British driver to win the Italian Formula 4 championship! What an incredible achievement and huge congratulations Ollie. We can't wait to see what's next!





## Service Awards

Congratulations to the following students who have recently received Service Awards:-

### Year 13

#### ARTS TIES

Rengashri Alagarsamy	Commitment to Equalities Committee	Mr Ager
Annabelle Ariyanayagam	Services to Student Welfare Committee & commitment to Equalities Committee	Mr Milliken & Mr Ager
Fin Baker	Services to Student Welfare Committee	Mr Milliken
Matt Bowerman	Services to Student Welfare Committee	Mr Milliken
Amrita Chockkalingam	Commitment to Equalities Committee	Mr Ager
LeoCui	Commitment to Equalities Committee	Mr Ager
Nigel Danquah	Services to Student Welfare Committee	Mr Milliken
Elliot Deverell-White		Mr Carter
Abisha Emmanuel	Services to Student Welfare Committee	Mr Milliken
Anoushka Garg	Services to Student Welfare Committee & commitment to Equalities Committee	Mr Milliken & Mr Ager
Thomas Gibney	Services to Student Welfare Committee	Mr Milliken
Anish Gupta	Services to Student Welfare Committee	Mr Milliken
Faaiz Haidar	Services to Student Welfare Committee & commitment to Equalities Committee	Mr Milliken & Mr Ager
Cassiah Harverson	Commitment to Equalities Committee	Mr Ager
William Humm	Commitment to Equalities Committee	Mr Ager
Shyam Kansagra	Commitment to Equalities Committee	Mr Ager
Kevinthran Peter	Commitment to Equalities Committee	Mr Ager
Ella Reidy		Mr Carter
Namya Sanal	Commitment to Equalities Committee	Mr Ager
Sam Scott	Services to Student Welfare Committee & commitment to Equalities Committee	Mr Milliken & Mr Ager
Syed Hur Shah	Commitment to Equalities Committee	Mr Ager
Libby Simmons	Commitment to Equalities Committee	Mr Ager
Ben Solomons	Services to Student Welfare Committee	Mr Milliken
Alex Staicu		Mr Carter

*Congratulations too to previous Arts tie winner Maya Patel, who was nominated for her commitment to Equalities Committee.*

# Service Awards

## Year 13

### HUMANITIES & LANGUAGES TIES

Amrita Chockkalingam	For mentoring younger students online in French	Mme Selaj
Kevinthran Peter	For mentoring younger students online in French	Mme Selaj
James Polack	For mentoring younger students online in French	Mme Selaj
Emily Stonebridge	For mentoring younger students online in French	Mme Selaj
Jamie Wade	For mentoring younger students online in French	Mme Selaj

*Congratulations too to previous Humanities & Languages tie winner William Humm, who was also nominated mentoring younger students online in French.*

### SCIENCE TIES

Jacob Barfoot	One to one maths mentor.	Maths Department
Dipo Olukanni	Mentoring a lower school student across 3 terms	Mr Milliken
Vijval Padigela	Organising and running a lunch time Maths Club for Y12.	Maths Department
Riyen Patel	One to one maths mentor.	Maths Department
Namya Sanal	One to one maths mentor.	Maths Department

## Year 12

### ARTS TIES

Casey Abrahams	Services to CCF	Major Brown
Aayush Darak	Services to CCF	Major Brown
Oscar Marder	Services to CCF	Major Brown
Cayden Redding	Services to CCF	Major Brown
Nico Sanchez-Love	Services to CCF	Major Brown
Max Sharp	Services to CCF	Major Brown
Richard Stancu	Services to CCF	Major Brown

### HUMANITIES & LANGUAGES TIES

Casey Abrahams	For providing assistance during lessons, particularly with IT issues during online lessons	Mrs Adams
Richard Stancu	For mentoring younger students online in French	Mme Selaj

## Diary Dates

Monday 25-Friday 29 October – Half Term

Tuesday 2 November – Year 11 parents evening (online)

Wednesday 17 November – Early finish at 14:30 for Sixth Form Open Evening set up

Wednesday 17 November – Sixth Form Open Evening (17:00-20:00)

Thursday 18 November – Non Pupil Day

Saturday 20 November – PA Quiz Night at KEGS

Thursday 2 December – Winter Concert

Wednesday 8 December – Year 12 Parents Evening

Thursday 16 December – Prizegiving

Friday 17 December – Last day of term