

As we move into the second half of the spring term, this edition of the newsletter highlights a selection of the many activities taking place across the school. As is often the case, the standout takeaway is the number of students involved in the vast range of opportunities offered both in and beyond the classroom.



Trips and visits have been a real highlight over the past few weeks. Our A level historians spent part of half term in Berlin, visiting sites that brought their studies vividly to life, while Sixth Form art students travelled to St Ives, drawing inspiration from the Cornish landscape and galleries as part of their coursework investigations. Closer to home, year 11 students travelled to Bristol to see a production of *Macbeth* and year 7 visited St Mary's Church in Kingswood as part of their RE work on sacred spaces. Experiences like these enrich learning and stay with students long after the trip itself.

Students have also taken part in a wide range of enrichment activities.

Celebrations for Lunar New Year included a performance of *Ballad of Mulan*, tea ceremonies and calligraphy workshops. A group of year 10 students attended the Girls in Tech event at UWE Bristol, while our year 12 physicists took part in the Senior Physics Challenge organised by the British Physics Olympiad. Meanwhile, the computing department has launched a robotics club and invited students to take part in a national coding competition.

There are also many examples of students contributing more widely to school life. Thirty-two year 12 students are participating in the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award, and our senior debating team were successful at the Rotary Youth Speaks competition and now progress to the next round. The Sixth Form charity team also marked Children's Mental Health Week by delivering thoughtful gifts and messages across the school.



As we approach the end of term, we are once again supporting the Keepers Easter Collection. Each year we invite families, if they are able, to add a small Easter treat – such as an Easter egg – to their shopping and send it into school so that it can be included in the collection. These donations help ensure that local families who may be finding things difficult can still enjoy a small Easter treat. Any donations will be gratefully received before Friday 20 March.

Looking ahead, we are very much looking forward to welcoming students from our partner school, Hikawa High School in Japan, later this month. This long-standing exchange is an important part of our international links and we are delighted to see it running again this year.

I hope you enjoy reading about the many activities and achievements featured in this edition.

Hannah Khan, Headteacher

## St Ives Art Trip

Over the half-term break, the KLB Art Department and Sixth Form art students travelled to Cornwall for their annual residential art trip to St Ives. The three-day visit provided an invaluable opportunity for students to respond creatively to the Cornish landscape, museums, and galleries through photography and drawing for their personal investigations and exam units.



The first day included a stop at the Eden Project, the world-renowned ecological attraction set within a reclaimed china clay pit. Famous for its vast geodesic biomes, including the world's largest indoor rainforest, the Eden Project offered a stimulating and visually rich environment, where students captured a wide range of photographs and drawings in their sketchbooks.



On Saturday, the group explored St Ives itself, a coastal town celebrated for its vibrant artistic community and its transformation from a small fishing port into an international centre for modern art. The day included a visit to the St Ives School of Art, where students took part in an inspiring workshop, followed by visits to Tate St Ives and the Barbara Hepworth Museum and Sculpture Garden. Cameras and sketchbooks were in constant use as students recorded ideas and observations throughout the day.

On the final day, the group stopped at St Michael's Mount for a final opportunity to take photographs before heading home.

Trip organiser Miss Bray commented on the students' enthusiasm and creativity, saying 'We were absolutely delighted with how the students worked incredibly hard throughout the trip. Fully embracing the

experience and producing some truly beautiful work. It was especially inspiring to see them at the St. Ives School of Painting, pushing themselves to try new techniques and ideas. Their willingness to step outside their comfort zones and the success they achieved, this was a real highlight.'

T Chilman, Art Teacher





## Chinese New Year Celebration at KLB

To mark the Lunar New Year of the Horse, we organised a variety of enriching cultural activities for our students sponsored by the CC (Confucius Classroom) funds.

On 23 February, we invited a professional production team to present Ballad of Mulan at the Berkeley Theatre for all Key Stage 3 Chinese and Japanese learners, together with some year 7 French students. The performance was met with great enthusiasm, and students engaged actively in the post-performance question-and-answer session, offering very positive feedback.



Year 8 and year 9 Chinese learners further explored Chinese traditions by participating in a traditional tea ceremony, where they learned about different varieties of tea and key aspects of tea culture. They also practised Chinese calligraphy by writing the character “福” (symbolising happiness and good



fortune) and painted Peking opera face masks. Some of our feeder primary school students also had the opportunity to take part in these activities.



Over the coming two weeks, Chinese learners will have the opportunity to make and sample traditional Chinese New Year dumplings. The recipe is included below for families who may wish to recreate this experience at home. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-CfrwFsiel8>)

Finally, we would like to wish everyone a very Happy Lunar New Year!

G Clarkson, Chinese Teacher



Our Gold DofE participants took over the school Library for a day in February to carry out their expedition training. This year, 32 students in year 12 have accepted the challenge of working towards a prestigious DofE Gold award, one team of canoeists and four teams of walkers.

The award is designed to stretch the students across five activity sections – Volunteering, Physical, Skill, Expedition and Residential. This programme of activities provides a framework by which participants develop a wealth of life and employability skills, and a better understanding of their own health and wellbeing and their responsibility towards other individuals and the wider community.



Among the volunteering activities chosen this year, students are supporting school clubs, scouting groups and faith communities. Skills include driving lessons, EPQ and cansat as well as learning instruments and languages. Team or individual sports include rugby, football, climbing, cycling and couch to 5K.



During the Training Day, the students mapped out their routes along the rivers severn and Wye for the canoeists and across the wild county of Dartmoor and the Black Mountains for the walkers. They also refreshed their packing and camp craft skills and practised some basic first aid. No doubt they were horrified to discover they will take just one change of clothes for their four day, three night assessed expedition in the summer!

Good luck to all this year's Gold participants. We hope you enjoy the challenge.

Helen Isaacs, DofE Coordinator



## A Level History Trip to Berlin

Initially, the thought of stepping into a small metal tube, flying high above the clouds on Friday the 13th, was something that genuinely terrified me. Yet our A level history trip to Berlin during half term became one of the most influential experiences of my life. I am so glad I went.

Despite it being half term, Miss Dolan and Mr Thomas certainly did not take it easy on us. Early mornings gathering in the corridor quickly became part of the routine.



Our first full day began with a guided walking tour of the city. Highlights included the iconic Brandenburg Gate, an introduction to Berlin's tram system, which proved important later, and the powerful Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe. Our guide, Nick, was exceptional, blending the knowledge of a local historian with humour shaped by his time living in London, and tailoring the experience to support our course perfectly.



After lunch near Checkpoint Charlie, we explored the history of East Germany and Soviet control. A particularly moving experience was visiting a former Stasi prison, where our guide shared his own first-hand experience as a former prisoner. Hearing his story brought the reality of the Cold War into sharp focus. We also visited exhibitions alongside the remains of the Berlin Wall further deepening our understanding of the city's divided past.



The following morning, we travelled to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp. No words can truly do justice to the experience. Walking through the camp was deeply moving, a stark reminder of the immense loss of life and suffering endured there. From the remnants of destroyed buildings to memorials added in later years, the site stands as a powerful testament to the importance of remembrance. It reinforced the responsibility we all share to remember history in its entirety, not just the parts that suit our perspectives.

Later that day, we visited the Reichstag Building. Its striking glass dome, symbolising transparency and modern democracy, beautifully reflects Berlin's blend of historic scars and contemporary renewal.



In the evening, we headed to the Berlin TV Tower. At 203 metres high, it took some persuasion for me to step into the lift, but I am so glad I did. The view across the city was unforgettable, even if the tower appeared to wobble slightly. Thank you to everyone for the emotional support with my fear of heights.

One of the lighter moments of the trip came during our tram journey back to the hotel, when the doors unexpectedly closed, leaving Miss Dolan and several students behind. The look of shock on everyone's faces as we pulled away was priceless. Thankfully, the tram stopped shortly after and we were quickly reunited.



After another early start, we made our journey home. Even with a slightly bumpy descent, I can honestly say I loved every moment of this trip, from the powerful visits to memorial sites to the friendships and shared laughter along the way.

Thank you to everyone who made this experience so memorable, especially Miss Dolan and Mr Thomas, whose organisation, knowledge and enthusiasm turned it into a truly unforgettable adventure.

Samuel McMahon, Year 13

### **Year 7 RE visits to St Mary's church, Kingswood**

We would like to thank Rosemary Casken and Bob Copeland for accommodating our annual trip to St Mary's in Kingswood at the end of last term. Students have been learning about 'Sacred Places and Spaces' in RE and we have visited the church to find out about the church building and how it is used by Christians for worship and to support the community. Students have been tasked with creating a multi-faith building for their island community, and draw upon their learning to cater to the needs and where possible wants of various faith groups.



Students enjoyed a fact finding mission around the church, trying on the choir robes and ringing the church bell. It was also educational for them to see how the church supports the local community, and how the building is utilised for both worship and other events.

The RE department was impressed by the behaviour of all the year 7 classes, and their excellent questions and great attitude made for a range of enjoyable and memorable visits, even if the weather at times was disagreeable!

Thank you once again to Rosemary Casken and her team at St Mary's for giving up their time to guide all nine classes around the church during the course of the week.

A Jones, Head of RE

## UWE Girls in Tech Event

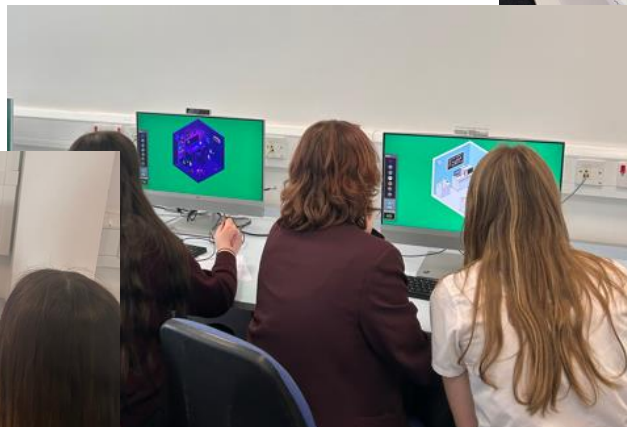
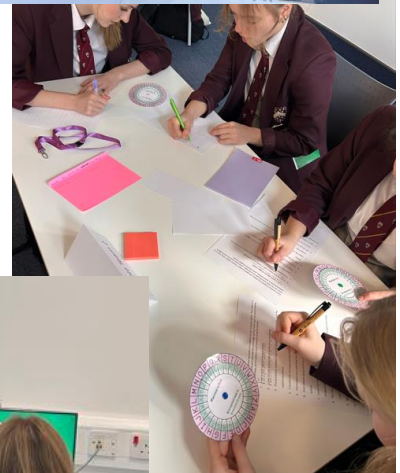
I had the pleasure of accompanying 13 year 10 girls on the UWE Bristol Girls in Tech day. The event was enjoyable and inspiring, encouraging students to be curious and enthusiastic about the world of technology and possible careers in this sector. We had four different hands-on activities throughout the day:

- Cryptography run by HP - where we used ceasar ciphers to write and encode messages
- AI Ethics run by the UWE digital learning team - discussing ethical issues surrounding the use of AI and how values can be programmed
- Digital Escape rooms from Gemba Advantage - collaborating under pressure, testing ideas and learning from failures to complete escape rooms that were themed from wuantim physics to cyber security
- Games design from UWE Games Technology faculty - students designed a game in a small 'game jam' given a stimulus word creating the task, theme and goal of their game. Then played 3<sup>rd</sup> year undergraduate games and provided feedback.



The students were fantastic and showed enthusiasm and engagement in each session. I hope to run this trip again in the future for more of our young women in STEM.

A Cozens, Head of Physics



## Water Bottles

Now that spring has finally arrived and warmer weather is on the way (hopefully), please would students remember to bring a refillable water bottle to school so that we are able to reduce our consumption of paper cups and associated costs.

## Attendance – Appointments during the school day

If your child has an appointment during the school day for any reason, please email [attendance@klbschool.org.uk](mailto:attendance@klbschool.org.uk) in advance to let us know the time you will be picking up your child at reception. The attendance officer will populate your child's record so that the class teacher knows they will be leaving early.

## Senior Physics Challenge

At the end of January, year 12 Physics students took part in the Online Senior Physics Challenge from the British Physics Olympiad. Our 45 students did incredibly well including Joss R and Callum D who both achieved a Silver Award. Over 7000 students took part this year from across over 300 schools internationally. Some of our students will compete in the paper round in March. I would like to congratulate all of the students who took part in this challenge.

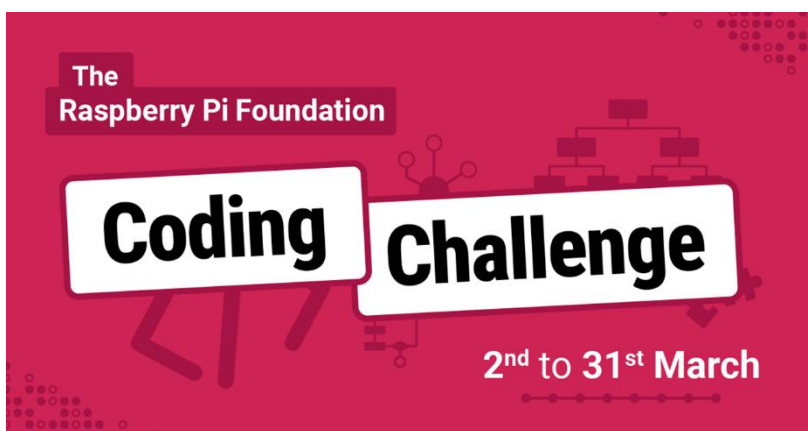


Here is an example question for you to try:

In a 3-minute shower, 1.5 kg of water is used every ten seconds. Estimate the number of droplets of water that are produced by the showerhead during the shower.

A Cozens, Head of Physics

## Coding Competition



The Raspberry Pi is a coding competition for all years for both block-based programming such as Scratch and text based including Python.

All students are welcome to take part. No prior experience of programming is required and KS4 and KS5 students do not have to be taking the subject. ALL participants will earn house points!

Afterschool support is available on Tuesdays in R5 and Fridays in R16 from 3rd to 31st March.

Students who would like to take part should speak to their computing teacher or see one of the department staff in the Computing and Business office in Renishaw. Alternatively, interested students are welcome to come along to the afterschool sessions to find out more about the competition.

H Ferris, Computing Teacher

## Year 9 Robotics club

The computing department is pleased to be launching a new club at which students will undertake a robotics challenge using programming and hardware.

The club will run weekly from 3 – 4pm in R5 starting on Tuesday 3 March.

Interested students should email Mr Chandler to request a place: [jchandler@klbschool.org.uk](mailto:jchandler@klbschool.org.uk)

Spaces are limited: if we cannot fit you in, a further opportunity to join will be available later this year.

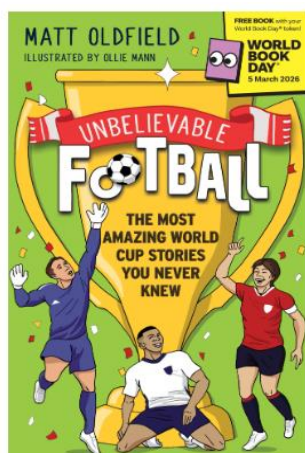
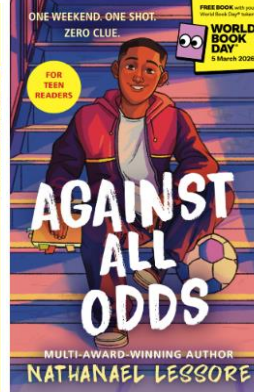
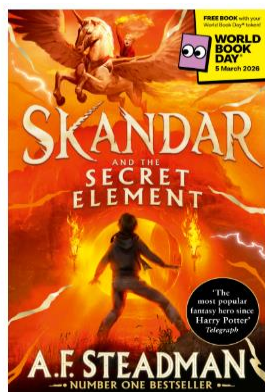
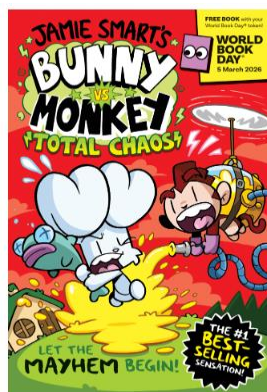
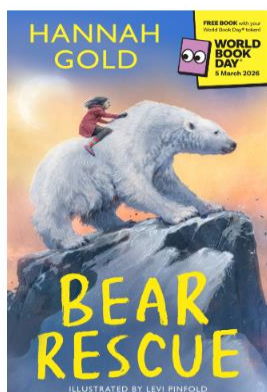
J Chandler, Head of Computing





# WORLD BOOK DAY®

## 5 March 2026



**THIS AUTHOR WILL  
BE IN SCHOOL ON  
FRIDAY 6 MARCH!**

World Book Day 2026 is on Thursday 5th March and all students in Years 7 and 8 have been given a token which they can redeem at any participating retailer for one of the World Book Day titles, like the ones shown above, or get £1 off another book (costing at least £2.99). The vouchers are valid from now until **Sunday 15 March 2026** at your local bookseller and most supermarkets.

Students who have not received a token can pop into the Library for a paper token or use the digital token on the library catalogue page by clicking [here](#). Students will need to log in before they can access the token.

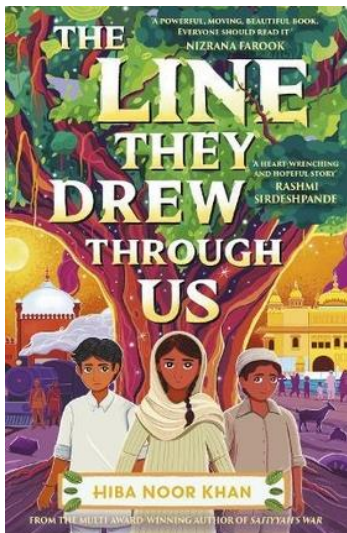
To celebrate World Book Day, there have been many book-related activities in the library including a Guess the Book Title competition with a chance to win prizes! Most excitingly, the highlight of the week will be a visit from the author **Matt Oldfield** who will be giving assemblies to years 7 and 8 and hosting a creative writing workshop with a group of Year 7 students. There will also be an opportunity for students to meet Matt as he will be signing copies of his books in the library during lunch. If students would like to purchase another title written by Matt, these will be available to buy for £6 on the day (cash only). Look out for the write up of Matt's visit in March's newsletter.

## February Diversity Books

Each month we are sharing two books recommended by students in our recent diversity book project in RE. This month's books focus on Muslim authors as February marks the start of the month of Ramadan.

In 2026 in the UK, Ramadan will begin on the evening of **Tuesday, 17 February** and end on **Wednesday, 18 March**.

During Ramadan, Muslims fast to remember the month in which the Qur'an was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad.



### ***The Line They Drew Through Us* by Hiba Noor Khan**

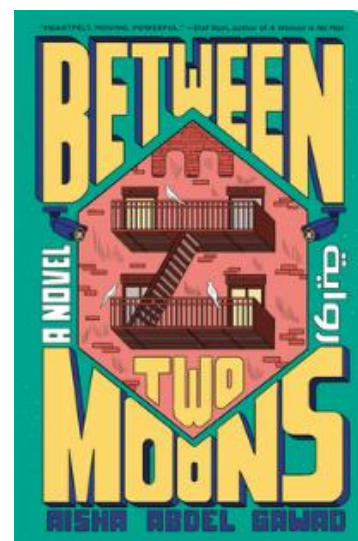
Three best friends are born on the same day under miraculous circumstances. But by their twelfth birthday, Jahan, Ravi and Lakshmi's lives are about to change forever. The British announce Indian independence and draw lines of Partition that tear apart the country, and the friends. One of them flees, one of them disappears, and the other is left wondering, could a miracle bring them back together?

### ***Between Two Moons* by Aisha Abdel Gawad**

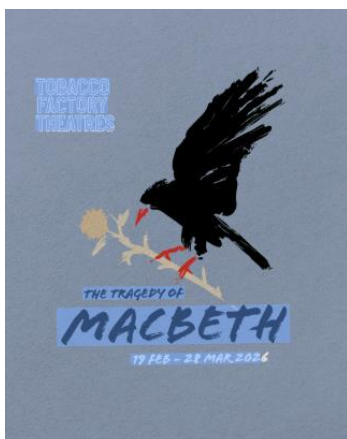
It's the holy month of Ramadan, and twin sisters Amira and Lina are about to graduate high school in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. On the precipice of adulthood, they plan to embark on a summer of teenage revelry, trying on new identities and testing the limits of what they can get away with while still under their parent's roof.

A beautifully written, intimate family story, *Between Two Moons* challenges the reader to interrogate their own assumptions, asking questions of allegiance to faith, family, and community, and what it means to be a young Muslim in America.

K Williams, RE Teacher



## Macbeth at the Tobacco Factory



On Tuesday and Thursday we took a combined 200 members of Year 11 to the Tobacco Factory in Bristol to view a production of Macbeth. Upon walking in, students were treated to a dark and sinister atmosphere as they took their seats in the intimate venue. What followed was two and a half hours of gripping Shakespeare as the tragedy unfolded. Audience and cast became as one as the witches chants were piped into speakers all around us, actors entered and exited stage through the aisles and at one point a couple of our students had Macbeth himself sat next to them. The trip was a great example of how to bring the texts we study to life with one student remarking to a teacher that it was great she 'knew the lines before they spoke them'.

As ever, KLB students behaved admirably. One member of the public told us that she had felt crestfallen to see a huge group of school children in the theatre, but that she needn't have worried: She was impressed by their rapt attention, impeccable behaviour, good manners and respect.

A Morgan, English Teacher

## House Update

The end of Term 3 saw a shift in the leader board again with the addition of House Match and Paper Tower Challenge Results and ECO Club Challenge Participation Points meaning that the standings were as follows:



Berkeley

645



Durand

792



Logan

686



Wellicome

626



Over half term students participated in a pancake making and flipping challenge with lots of fun had by all!

K Wyndow



## Charity Team Mental Health Week Chocolate

The sixth form charity team coordinated delivery of thoughtful chocolate gifts across the school to bring Children's Mental Health Week to an end. More than 300 gifts with heartfelt messages made their way to grateful recipients. Proceeds will go to Place2Be who provide mental health services to schools across the country.

J Campion, Head of Sixth Form

## Rotary Youth Speaks – A Debate

Saturday 28 February saw the District Final of the 'Rotary Youth Speaks - a Debate' competition held at Churchdown Community Centre, Gloucester. In the morning, our intermediate team of Bethan Beebee, Martha Manners and Annie Heeley, all year 8, took on incredibly tough competition from other schools across the region such as Monmouth Comprehensive, Pates and Redmaids. Their motion was 'Space exploration is a waste of resources'. The standard this year was higher than ever with all teams speaking confidently about complex issues with minimal reliance on notes. Our girls came away without the top prize but did themselves and KLB proud.



In the afternoon, it was the turn of our senior team: Ellie Ponting, Emily Hall and Lucas Payne (all Year 12). Their chosen motion was: 'A selfish life isn't wrong'. Again, the competition was stiff with an exceptionally high standard but this time we had great success and were crowned the winners!



The team now progress to the cluster finals on Sunday 22 March at Clifton College where they will be debating against schools from other Rotary districts from Land's End to Swindon. They showed such courage, determination and resilience in their preparation for Saturday's competition and we could not be more proud of them.

E Cornish, English Teacher

## Pizza and Quiz Night



To celebrate the end of term and end of year 13 mocks, the sixth form leadership held a pizza and quiz night just before we broke up. It was a very enjoyable evening with over 40 pizzas and 20 loaves of garlic bread consumed as well as innumerable crisps and chocolate bars.

It was a closely fought contest, with the teacher team leading the way at one point

– they had ensured as many bases were covered as possible with maths, science and languages teachers. Some students also suggested that they had the advantage of being 'closer to history'. In the end, a year 12 team won the £100 cash (pictured above) with the teachers and a year 13 team winning the runners up chocolate bars.



J Campion, Head of Sixth Form

## Japanese Exchange

We are delighted to share that Katharine Lady Berkeley's School will once again be welcoming students from our partner school, Hikawa High School in Yamanashi, Japan, from 16th until 24th March.

This exchange programme has been a valued part of life at KLB for nearly 30 years and is a cornerstone of our international links. After a pause last year due to staffing changes in the languages department, we are thrilled to see it fully re-established in 2026.



Twenty students from Hikawa High School will be staying with KLB families and experiencing life in Wotton under Edge and the surrounding area. During their visit, they will attend lessons at KLB, take part in cultural activities, visit Bath and London, and receive English lessons at the Civic Centre.

The exchange is a truly transformative experience for our students. It builds confidence, deepens cultural understanding, strengthens language skills, and creates lifelong friendships. Our KLB students will then travel to Japan in July, where they will stay with their exchange partners, and experience Japanese school and family life first-hand.

We look forward to sharing more highlights from the visit in our next newsletter — and to celebrating another chapter in this special international partnership.

Chris Bufton, Head of Japanese

## KLB School Vacancies

We currently have vacancies for Examination Invigilators and a Teaching Assistant. Further information is available on this link: <https://klbschool.org.uk/joining-us/vacancies/>

|               |                                                                                          |                                                                                       |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Job title     | <b>Examination Invigilators</b> <small>NEW</small>                                       |  |
| Location      | Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire                                                       |                                                                                       |
| Salary        | £12.65 per hour                                                                          |                                                                                       |
| Posted        | 3rd March 2026                                                                           |                                                                                       |
| Employer      | Katharine Lady Berkeley's School                                                         |                                                                                       |
| Contract Term | Part Time                                                                                |                                                                                       |
| Description   | The school is seeking to appoint invigilators on a casual work contract to join our e... |                                                                                       |

|               |                                                                                       |                                                                                       |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Job title     | <b>Teaching Assistant</b>                                                             |  |
| Location      | Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire                                                    |                                                                                       |
| Salary        | NJC Points 11-14 (£28,142 - £29,540) pro rata                                         |                                                                                       |
| Posted        | 23rd February 2026                                                                    |                                                                                       |
| Employer      | Katharine Lady Berkeley's School                                                      |                                                                                       |
| Contract Term | Term Time                                                                             |                                                                                       |
| Description   | Katharine Lady Berkeley's School wishes to add to its existing supportive and hard... |                                                                                       |



## News from KLB Friends

### Volunteer Call-Out for KLB Friends

We are looking for parents and carers who can spare a little time to help at upcoming KLB Friends events. Whether it's setting up, serving refreshments, running a stall, or helping tidy away, even an hour makes a real difference.

Every penny we raise goes directly back into **enriching your children's educational experience at KLB School** — funding resources, activities, and opportunities that the school budget simply cannot manage.

You don't need to join the committee or commit to every event. Just being on our volunteer list means we can reach out when help is needed, and you can say yes whenever it suits you.

If you're happy to be added to the volunteer list, please let us know — we'd love to have you involved. Email: [admin@klbfriends.co.uk](mailto:admin@klbfriends.co.uk)

### We are still on the lookout for two committee roles:

- **Secretary**
- **Vice Chair**

If you are curious about what we do, interested in joining, or simply want to meet the team, please come along to our next meeting on Tuesday 10 March at 6.45pm in The Swan Hotel Wotton, or get in touch.

### Upcoming Events and Activities

#### Parents' Evenings

- **Year 13 (Final)** – 5 March- <https://volunteersignup.org/FYHW7>
- **Year 8** – 19 March- <https://volunteersignup.org/HY3KH>
- **Year 7** – 16 April- <https://volunteersignup.org/KEKTD>

#### School Production

- **Les Misérables** – 11, 12 & 13 March *Refreshments and licensed bar available*

#### Community Events

- **Lions 10,000M** – Sunday 31 May
- **Charfield Fete** – Saturday 6 June
- **Carnival & Classic Car Show** – Saturday 11 July. We are looking for stallholders, wonderful sponsors and raffle prizes. If you can help, please get in touch.

#### 80:20 Club — Join Anytime

- If you have not signed up yet, now is the perfect moment. New members are welcome throughout the year, and every subscription supports vital school projects.

#### EasyFundraising App

An easy way to raise funds for school from the comfort of your own home!

Download the app and shop at all your favourite online stores and raise funds for school – EASY!

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/klbfriends>

#### Find Us Online

Website: <https://www.klbfriends.co.uk/>

#### Get in Touch

We're always excited to welcome new faces and fresh ideas.

Email [klbfriends@klbschool.org.uk](mailto:klbfriends@klbschool.org.uk) or our new email address: [Admin@klbfriends.co.uk](mailto:Admin@klbfriends.co.uk)

The KLB Friends Committee

WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE  
DRAMATIC SOCIETY  
PRESENTS

Music  
and Lyrics  
By  
Jerry Herman



# Hello, Dolly!

Book by Michael Stewart  
Based on the play The Matchmaker by Thornton Wilder

**10th - 18TH APRIL 2026**

2.30pm and 7.30pm Performances at The Town Hall

Book tickets online at [www.wottondrama.co.uk](http://www.wottondrama.co.uk) or  
telephone hotline: 07999938915  
open Saturday mornings 10am-12 Midday  
Tickets on sale from 3rd January

Original Production Directed and Choreographed by Gower Champion  
Produced for the Broadway Stage by David Merrick and Champion Five, Inc.  
This amateur production of HELLO, DOLLY! is presented by arrangement with  
Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Tams-Witmark LLC [www.concordtheatricals.co.uk](http://www.concordtheatricals.co.uk)