KLB

KATHARINE
LADY
BERKELEY'S
SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1384

“ I am very impressed with KLB. The school keeps parents well informed and teachers are easy to contact, and respond quickly when needed.”

YEAR 9 PARENT

Welcome to

Katharine Lady Berkeley’s School

Katharine Lady Berkeley’s School has a long history. In fact, it is the oldest state secondary school in the country. Founded in 1384, it was set up by Katharine Lady Berkeley in Wotton-under-Edge with just one master and two students. Since then, the school has come a long way; we are now a highly successful 11-18 mixed comprehensive school with over 1500 students.

It is important to us that we inspire you to become ambitious, confident individuals who enjoy your learning and achieve the success you deserve – both in and out of the classroom. Our committed and skilled team will provide great teaching, fantastic extra-curricular opportunities and excellent academic and pastoral support to help you to become a well-rounded individual, to achieve your very best every day and to prepare you for an exciting future.

We are extremely proud of our strong community. We are a welcoming, open and outward-looking school where every individual can feel safe and thrive. Our academic standards are very important to us, but so too is our ethos of respect for all.

When you visit the school, you will immediately be struck by our green and spacious setting. It is a feature of which our students are proud, and it inspires us to look after the environment. Much of our electricity is generated by our newly installed solar panels and many of our school practices contribute to a sustainable future.

We have just completed a five year rebuild programme which has provided state-of-art facilities for design technology, languages and learning support, as well as a new theatre and activity studio.

Well over 600 years since its foundation, Katharine Lady Berkeley’s School is stronger than ever. We look forward to you joining us to help take the school forward to an even brighter, fairer and greener future.

If you’d like to know more, visit our website or, better still, get in touch to arrange a visit. I’ll be happy to meet you and your parents.

Hannah Khan
Headteacher

“ We have three children at KLB. They are all thriving in the environment provided by this excellent school.”

YEAR 10 PARENT

1384 The School is founded

1439 First printing press

1500’s Tuition free but scholars required to provide their own quill, inkhorn and penknife

1540 The Reformation causes “great troubles” in Wotton

1569 First Mercator Projection Map

1605 First newspaper

An inspiring curriculum and great teaching

We very much believe in a rich and varied curriculum where you will have the opportunity to study and prosper in many very different subjects. We continually review what we offer to ensure that the curriculum is appropriate and challenging, as well as enabling you to develop the knowledge, skills, experiences and wider cultural appreciation to be fulfilled in your adult life.

Whether it is developing your interest in languages through studying a combination of French, Spanish, Japanese and Chinese, developing your practical skills in the DT workshops, exploring science in great depth, developing your love of literature or mathematical problem solving, or joining the biology and geography field trips amongst much else, you will find something to excite and inspire you.

Being a large school we are able to support all subjects equally, giving you the opportunity to thrive across the full curriculum. Our dedicated art block, with its stunning views of the countryside, provides an inspiring environment to develop your talents through a wide range of courses. The performing arts department benefits from the new Berkeley Theatre and studio, which have further enhanced our music concerts and drama productions.

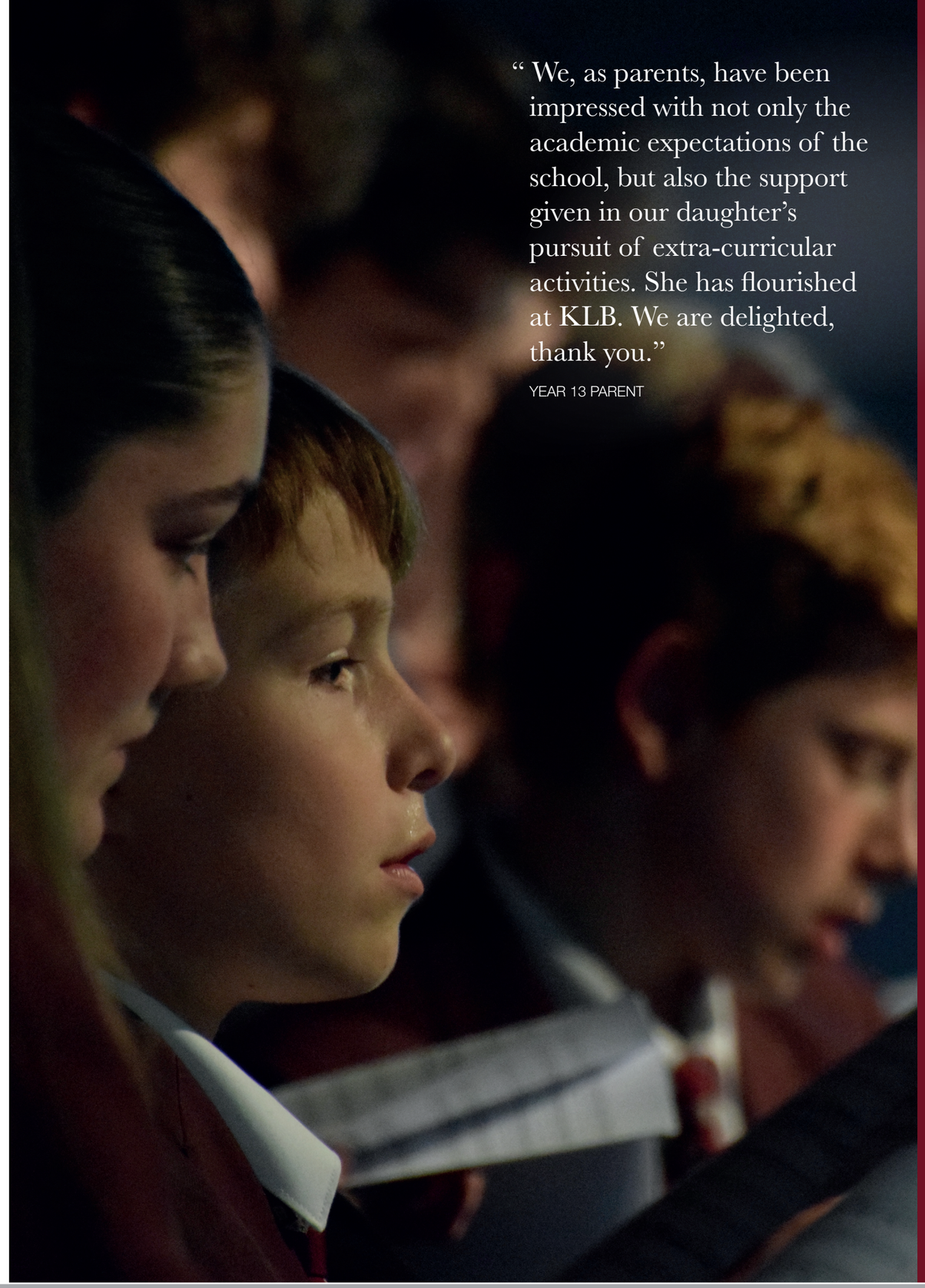
Your teachers are committed to developing their practie to ensure you enjoy learning. They will also get to know how you work best, your strengths, and which areas you need to develop so you can enjoy success, not only in your exams, but each and every day in the classroom. In short, we will be here to support your learning and celebrate your successes every step of the way.

Regardless of your interests and abilities, I am certain your journey though KLB will bring much enjoyment, challenge and ultimately success.

Edward Thomas
Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum)

" KLB wants every child to be able to achieve the best of their ability and provides the support and resources for this to be achieved."

YEAR 7 PARENT



" We, as parents, have been impressed with not only the academic expectations of the school, but also the support given in our daughter's pursuit of extra-curricular activities. She has flourished at KLB. We are delighted, thank you."

YEAR 13 PARENT

1712 First steam engine

1752 Electricity discovered

1827 School inspection describes curriculum as simply "classical"

1829 Stephenson's Rocket

1864 Harris Minor gets shocking report: conduct slovenly, progress nil

1886 School name becomes "Katharine Lady Berkeley's Grammar School"

“ I love being able to go to A1 – it’s a safe place for me to go to, and I enjoy spending time there. I sometimes complete homework there, or I can work on something I am finding tricky.”

YEAR 7 STUDENT

“ Pupils are proud to attend Katharine Lady Berkeley’s School. They are happy and feel safe. Pupils say they enjoy learning and value the teaching they experience.”

OFSTED, MAY 2023

We put the student at the centre of what we do. We listen to the young person and work with their family and the staff to build on the student’s strengths and find ways to reduce the barriers to personal, social and academic fulfilment. Across the school, we seek to normalise asking for help because most people, at some point, will require it. We recognise the strength of character needed to manage and overcome life’s challenges. Those with special educational needs are encouraged to take ownership of their success and celebrate their achievements.

Supporting you and your development

Just as we do all we can to help you with your academic progress, we also aim to support your well-being and personal development so that you live and work cooperatively within the school community and enjoy a healthy and active life.

The high quality of care, guidance and support starts from the moment you are offered a place at KLB. We will work hard to get to know you, your strengths and ambitions as well as those aspects of life at school where you may need extra help and support. One of our team will visit your primary school to talk to you about your new school. You’ll also be able to visit KLB for an induction day when you’ll have the chance to meet many of your new teachers and enjoy sample lessons. This will be supported by communication between the school and your parents so that you all know what to do and what to expect.

Your well-being and enjoyment of school is our main priority. We have a wide range of support and counselling available for students who are experiencing difficulties or who are just feeling stressed or anxious. This includes ‘Talk in Confidence’ (TIC), which involves volunteer sixth form students being trained to provide a listening ear for younger students.

We also know that not everyone finds learning easy and it is important to us that we give those students as much support as possible to help them to do their best.

“ This year there have been many challenges, but I have had a lot of support from the school, especially the Teaching Assistants and my tutor, and this has helped me to enjoy my time at KLB. Talking to my TIC buddy about my feelings whilst seeing Berkeley (the school dog) has helped me a lot, too.”

YEAR 7 STUDENT

1901 Girls enrolled for the first time

1903 First motorised aircraft

1916 November 13th: William Wellicome killed in action

1928 Penicillin discovered

1955 Roll grows to 335 pupils

1969 Apollo 11 landed on the Moon

Staying active

We are very proud of our reputation as one of the top schools in the region for both recreational and competitive sport and we hope you will take the opportunity to become involved in the very many different sporting activities on offer. KLB has a rich tradition in hockey and enjoys much success in netball, rugby and football. You can also benefit from the range of lunch-time activities that include handball, fencing and table tennis amongst others.

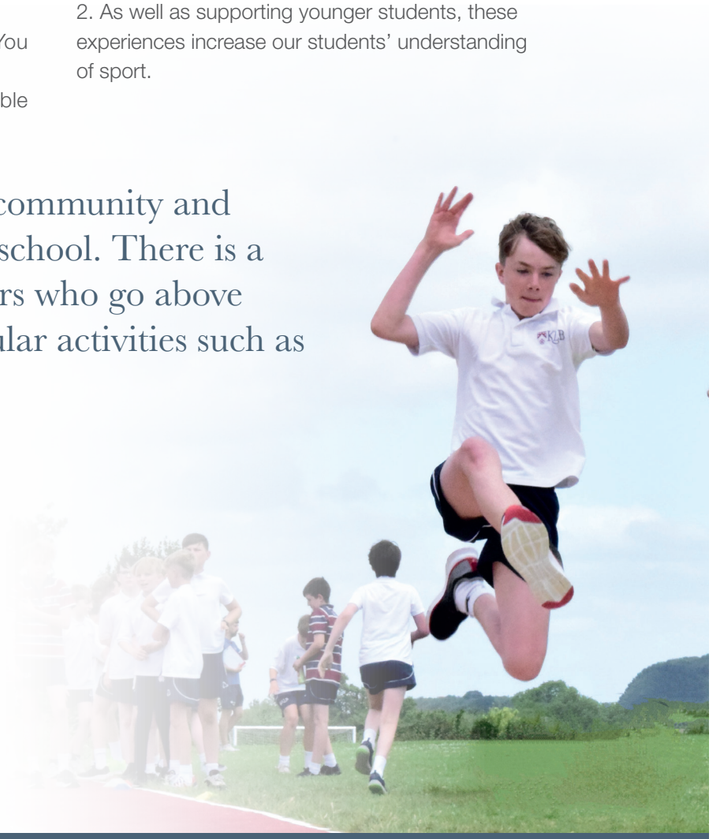
We also recognise that you have much to offer, supporting sport and acting as a role model in our local primary schools. Many of our Key Stage 4 students are given leadership opportunities, which include working with students in Key Stages 1 and 2. As well as supporting younger students, these experiences increase our students' understanding of sport.

"There is a strong sense of community and collective belonging at the school. There is a very strong team of teachers who go above and beyond in extracurricular activities such as music, drama and sport"

YEAR 9 PARENT

"The sports facilities and the number of clubs available to children are fantastic."

YEAR 10 PARENT.



Students at KLB really embrace an extensive range of sporting opportunities, led by our dedicated and enthusiastic staff. Participation is the priority, but we also take great pride in the outstanding achievements of many of our individual students and our teams, frequently gaining success at county, regional and national levels.

Richard Daniel
Head of Physical Education

Beyond the classroom

We very much hope that as well as enjoying your academic studies, you will take the opportunity to be involved in the wide range of clubs and activities that we offer. If you are interested in performing arts, you'll be able to take part in musical concerts, theatrical productions, public speaking and poetry recital; if you enjoy physical and leadership challenges, you'll be able to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme; if you enjoy mathematics, you'll be able to compete in the Mathematics Olympiad; and if you enjoy travelling and speaking foreign languages, you'll be able to take part in one of our many language exchanges.

Foreign visits provide an excellent opportunity for students to develop their language learning and to gain international understanding. Our exchange programme includes residential visits to France and Spain, as well as further afield to Japan. We are very proud to have long-standing exchange programmes with Collège Denecourt in Bois-le-Roi in France, Colegio Altair in Madrid and Hikawa High School in Japan. Many past students have benefited from spending a week living in a different country and experiencing its culture first hand.

Selena Jones
Head of Languages

In fact we are always looking to add new opportunities and these are often developed in response to the interests of students and staff. Additions over the last few years include electric go-kart racing, the equestrian team, science club and horticulture.

Your participation outside of the classrooms is hugely important and contributes greatly to you becoming a young adult who communicates well, is confident, respectful of others and embraces difference. Ultimately, our hope is that you are able to move on to the next stage of your life with the necessary skills, interests, qualities and ambition to be fulfilled and successful.

1973 Merger with the County Secondary School

1984 600 year centenary celebrations and visit of Princess Anne

1989 World Wide Web launched

1998 First exchange with Hikawa High School, Japan

2001 First Apple iPod

2011 School becomes an academy

An exceptional Sixth Form

KLB SIXTH FORM

With effort comes reward

The school has a large sixth form of over 300 students. Academic attainment is exceptionally high, with the school being consistently placed in the top 10% of schools nationally for student progress. Our students achieve outstanding academic outcomes and personal development to equip them to progress to university, employment, or an apprenticeship of their choice, which often includes many of our students accessing the most competitive courses in the country.

Sixth Form studies, including both A level and vocational courses, are enriched by a programme offering a wide range of opportunities. These include sporting activities, learning a new language, supporting the local community, working in primary schools, and mentoring younger students within our school.

We are proud that so many of our new students in Year 7 have the ambition one day to be a member of our sixth form, to be with us for the full seven years, to move seamlessly to GCSE, to A level and beyond. The last two full Ofsted reports have rated the achievement of our students and the quality of provision in our sixth form as Outstanding.

we are thrilled to be on of the top sixth forms nationally. We are continually impressed by the dedication and ambition shown by our students and by their excellent results. An aspect of my job that I particularly enjoy is the opportunity to get to know students individually, to help them with their challenges and with their dreams. Most of our sixth form have been with us since Year 7, so we already know them well, but it's great to see students from other schools joining us in Year 12 too.

Jane Campion
Head of Sixth Form

" Sixth-form students are strong positive role models to younger pupils. The sixth-form curriculum offer is exceptional."

OFSTED , MAY 2023

" KLB has been the best experience for our child and us as parents: so supportive, understanding and caring and not to mention excellent staff and teaching. We are extremely proud to be part of KLB."

YEAR 13 PARENT

2012 God Particle discovered

2018 64,000 year-old Neanderthal cave art found in Spain

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