

KSHS OLD GIRLS NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 2026



Letter from the Chair

Welcome to the Annual AGM and Summer Afternoon Tea of the Old Girls Association. It is a pleasure to gather once again, and share chatter and news whilst enjoying the delicious food prepared by Mrs Parrot and her team at the school. Your committee has continued to work on your behalf during the past year, liaising with school, supporting current students and providing a link for past students to remain in touch. As always we are eager for members to share their news in order that we are able to produce the newsletter that is regularly requested. I hope that you enjoy reading this account of the past year. There is much change at school. I know that you will welcome Mrs Katy Stokes in her new role as Head of School. I met briefly with her this week and know that she is planning to update you all on the changes related to the Academy Trust. Naturally we wish Mrs Josephine Smith all the very best wishes as she takes up her new position of Executive Headteacher of the Trust. Family commitments prevent me from sharing this afternoon with you but I am sure that you will enjoy a super meeting! I hope that the Quiz goes well! I look forward to catching up next year!

Best wishes, *Michelle*



Photographs from The AGM September 2025



Transcript of the Senior Prizegiving Report delivered by Mrs J Smith December 2025

Good evening,

Thank you, everyone, for joining us here this evening. We tend to be a humble lot here at the High School and it's very likely that, as students, you have sat in this hall being encouraged to be just a little bit braver and to trust in yourself and your abilities a little more.

Well, tonight it's a refreshingly different story. Tonight is the evening to shamelessly and proudly celebrate your every achievement, to stand in the spotlight and listen to the applause that celebrates how brilliantly you've done, and to reap the rewards for all that perseverance, courage and hard work.

It's also a time when, as Headteacher, I can shamelessly celebrate what your collective efforts, your teamwork and the brilliant way you conduct yourselves in and out of school mean for the school as a whole.

Last week, we learned that we had once again earned a mention in the Sunday Times Parent Power listings, a publication featuring the highest-performing schools in each region. Our Ofsted Outstanding status and accolades such as this are testament to the work that goes on day in and day out in school and part of the reason, we are now oversubscribed for next year. See what I mean? Shameless celebration!

Never complacent though and always committed to working not just for current students but also for those who will join our ranks in the future, we spent last year focused on being a key player in something even bigger. After careful planning, in October, along with Carre's Grammar School, we merged with the Community Inclusive Trust, a Multi-Academy Trust of 21 primary, special and secondary schools across Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire. As the first secondary schools in the Trust, we hope to pave the way for excellent secondary provision. Thanks to the warm welcome from CIT colleagues and the resilience and positivity of staff, students and parents, we believe we have entered into something special that will benefit future generations of local students. A warm welcome to the CEO, Peter Bell, who joins us this evening.

But the focus is on those of you returning to the school this evening after having completed GCSEs, A levels and vocational qualifications. If you've returned home having left it in the autumn, I hope that life beyond Sleaford is treating you well and that your parents have filled the fridge and their petrol tanks, ready to remind you of the luxuries of home. Those of you who have started your A level courses, well done on your tremendous GCSE achievements. The certificates you collect this evening will be a lifelong sign of your success. The whole staff is really proud of you. Whilst examination outcomes are one thing, we hope that all our students' memories of the High School are about so much more than academic study. Marith (Head Girl) and Ruby

(Assistant Head Girl) are about to celebrate some of the High School highs of the past few months with you now.

Before I introduce Hannah Broughton, our very special guest, and invite her to present the prizes and certificates this evening, there are some important, but brief, thank yous.

Returning this evening are Mrs Tipper and Mrs Fleming, both of whom retired this summer after long and successful careers at the High School. Between them, they racked up over 50 years of service and we are delighted to welcome them back this evening to share in students' success. We are also pleased to welcome back Mrs Brewer, who worked with us as Head of Art until June last year. Visitors to the school are always impressed by the artwork on display across the school, all of which is created by our talented students. Thank you for keeping the bar high, Mrs Brewer. I hope you enjoy seeing the work on display this evening.

Hello's are much easier than goodbyes, of course, and we were delighted to welcome new teachers too: Miss Steff Ellis, covering Mrs Hunt's maternity leave in PE; Mr Steven Sheppard, who joined us from Bourne Grammar School to be Subject Leader in Maths; and Miss Colley in Design Technology, a fitting replacement for Mrs Fleming, having partly been trained by her!

There must have been something in the High School water this year too, as we celebrated the birth of several 'High School babies'. Congratulations to Mrs Jackson, Mrs Hunt, Mr Rooke and their families. It's my favourite way of ensuring future student enrolments!

I must reserve my final thank yous, and no doubt pass on yours, for every one of our hardworking, committed and loyal members of staff and volunteers. It takes a very special team of dedicated professionals to take a good school to Outstanding. Our staff translate school systems into meaningful, powerful learning experiences and opportunities for our young people. I come to work every day grateful and proud to work with such a team of talented people. It's a privilege to work alongside you. Thank you all so very much.

My personal thanks must go to Mrs White, Mrs Stokes, Mrs Kopsidas and Mrs Brown, who live, breathe and often sleeplessly manifest High School development as its Senior Team. Along with the support of cross-Trust colleagues Mr Simon Linforth and Mr Andy Allen, and the challenge and support of our Executive Head, Mr Nick Law, we continue to strive to ensure that the High School goes from strength to strength.

Now, the spotlight turns to you, our students, and the prizes you've earned. We are honoured and excited to welcome Hannah Broughton MBE, entrepreneur, charity founder and former High School student.

Transcript of the report delivered by Marith Leafe, Head Girl at the senior prizegiving December 2025

Good evening, everyone. My name is Marith and I am Head Girl at KSHS. Tonight, I would like to share with you some of the opportunities offered to, and experienced by, students at this school over the 2024–2025 academic year.

Every year, departments across the school are eager to organise school trips, and last year was no exception. Geography started the academic year strongly with trips for Years 11, 12 and 13 to Hunstanton, Lincoln and Skegness, where students collected data for their fieldwork studies. Sixth formers were also fortunate to visit Iceland, where they experienced an indoor lava show. With a visitor from the charity Act4Africa and several students taking part in the Geographical Worldwide Quiz, students certainly embraced all opportunities.

The History and German trip to Berlin was incredibly popular in October last year, with language students having the opportunity to put their German skills into practice and all students gaining a better understanding of the history of the city through visits to iconic landmarks and historical sites, including the Brandenburg Gate, the Berlin Wall and Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp. History trips continued, with Year 9 also visiting France and Belgium, while sixth form students supported their studies by attending a conference where they heard leading historians debate different aspects of the Wars of the Roses. Castles also remained high on the agenda, with visits to Lincoln and Warwick.

It wasn't just about trips, however; students from the Psychology department were fortunate to receive a visit from a play therapist, where they were able to see how their learning could be applied to real-world scenarios. The same students also attended a conference where they impressively recapped the entire A level course in one day.

For many students, the extra-curricular activities organised by departments remain a real highlight. Students involved in the Art department tapped into their creativity through their annual participation in the Sleaford River Light Festival, and several students had their work displayed at local galleries, with Tabitha Goode being recognised in the Articulation Prize for delivering a presentation on a notable work of art. Among other STEM events, the Science department competed in the Raytheon quadcopter regional finals, with two groups of Year 9 students achieving 4th and 5th place.

Last year also saw collaboration between the library and Music department to create the Library Lounge, where students are able to showcase their musical achievements while providing entertainment for those in the library.

The highly anticipated return of the sponsored walk in July was hugely successful, with funds raised going towards new keyboards, a volleyball net and microphones. These - the microphones, not the volleyball net - were put to good use in the production of *Mary Poppins* in February, which was described as 'a memorable showcase of young talent and

creative ingenuity'. Many of the students involved are already hard at work preparing for their next performance.

Another achievement that deserves recognition is the dedication of the Year 13s in completing their Extended Project Qualifications, with dissertations including 'Should assisted dying be legalised in the UK?', while other students opted to create artefacts such as a novella or a short play. The effort that went into every project was truly impressive.

There are many more exciting opportunities and events which I could share, but it is clear to see that students at KSHS make the most of the opportunities given to them and are always striving to achieve. I would also like to take this opportunity to give heartfelt thanks to all the teachers and staff who go the extra mile to make these special events happen - your time, dedication and enthusiasm make these experiences truly memorable.

Tonight is a chance to celebrate the achievements of the students at this school and to wish you all the best of luck for the future, no matter what that may look like.

Transcript from the report delivered by Ruby Lamb, Assistant Head Girl, at Senior Prizegiving December 2025

Good evening, my name is Ruby Lamb and I am one of the Assistant Head girls here at the high school.

KSHS is renowned for providing a wide range of extracurricular opportunities for its students to take part in and, like previous years, 2025 is no exception.

In the PE department, a large range of sports are offered for students to participate in, including netball, football, athletics and cricket, where teams regularly represent the school in competitions against other schools, events in which our pupils are extremely successful.

Recent sporting triumphs include students taking part in the regional finals for softball cricket in Lincoln, a new tournament where they won all three games they played, as well as multiple netball and football tournaments. The annual regional cross-country competition has seen many students excel over the years and, in January, those who had qualified for the county championships had the opportunity to run at Burghley House, where all runners finished in the top 30. Staff also had the opportunity to take part in sporting activities by playing in the teacher dodgeball match in March, which aimed to raise money for the school trip to Namibia in 2026, where students will have the opportunity to help a school in any way they can.

External sporting achievements are greatly celebrated in school as we recognise the dedication and hard work of our peers. Eleanor in Year 9 was featured on Sky News for her spectacular rock-climbing achievements. Grace, Megan and Sophie also won an array of medals in a Korean martial arts competition. In October, Amelia in Year 10 was accepted onto the England squad for karate and she also won a gold medal at the national championships in Qatar. KSHS is extremely proud of all our pupils' achievements.

Students had the exciting opportunity to go skiing in Andorra in April and the next trip is already in the planning for February 2027. Sports leaders also planned a dance festival and multiple sports events for primary school pupils, where they worked to support participation and helped pupils gain experience in competitive sports and develop their skills.

As well as sport, many of our students took part in numerous STEM-related trips and competitions. In July, A-level physics students across the Robert Carre Trust visited Geneva in Switzerland, where they had a tour of the world's largest particle accelerator. They also soaked up some culture in Geneva Old Town and visited the History of Science Museum.

After winning the regional stage, our team of Year 9 students visited the Honourable Artillery Company Museum in London to compete in the national finals of the Raytheon quadcopter competition. Students had to design, build and fly a quadcopter in a unique

STEM challenge. Reaching the nationals meant they finished in the top 14 schools in the UK, from over 200 entrants.

In July, KSHS hosted the regional Rotary Technology Tournament, where students competed alongside CGS, St George's and Sir Will Robertson students. They had to design and build a solution to an unseen technical challenge. Teams of four students in Year 8 and Year 10 took part and this year our Year 10 teams claimed first and second place.

Another enriching opportunity offered in school is the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, with many students signing up each year for the varying levels. For the 2024–2025 period, 74 students took part in the Bronze Award, 26 in the Silver Award and eight in the testing Gold Award. Students taking part showed great resilience as they tackled rough terrain and challenging weather conditions in the Peak District and Yorkshire Moors.

Year 11 and Year 12 drama students had the opportunity to visit London, where they watched several performances and visited Pineapple Studios for a workshop which helped develop their theatrical skills.

In the summer term, Key Stage 4 students had a full-day drama workshop with Kerry Frampton of professional theatre company Splendid Productions. The workshop concentrated on techniques that would help students devise dramatic scenes and Kerry left the students with an invaluable experience.

Year 12 geography students also welcomed an external speaker, Patrick, an ex-Carre's student, who spoke about his voluntary work in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro.

Fieldwork in geography, history case studies brought alive through visits, and opportunities for students to perform, write, compete, debate, present and problem-solve outside the classroom all meant that we have had an extremely busy year here at KSHS.

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Obituary

It is with sadness that we were informed of the loss of Joyce Dicken, Eileen Robson and Melody Shanahan-Kluth. We also learnt of the passing of Mr Neville MacFarlane recently, a past Head teacher of the school and our OGA vice president for many years. Mrs Pam Edwards offered this tribute to Mr MacFarlane.

Neville MacFarlane - Headteacher 1980-1996

It is with great sadness that we must report the death of Neville MacFarlane. He had become increasingly frail as was to be expected in his nineties. Those who knew him either as student or colleague will each have their own memories; but he was a significant figure in the evolution of the school.

Neville was Deputy Head at Carres when he was appointed to succeed Anne Brookes. His appointment was met with mixed emotions - a man to lead a girls' school with 2nd wave feminism trying to improve women's standing in the world? As the father of two girls however he was firmly on the side of female education and opportunities.

In person he was a serious intellectual, an Oxford graduate with a degree in German but also a considerable musician and an LRAM. He always struck me as a George Smiley character, although as a staunch member of the Salvation Army he was far removed from the world of MI5/6. Like the Le Carre character however, he never rushed to decisions, things were thought through carefully and judged on their own merits. He was always kind and gentle in manner with everyone, though firm and decisive when necessary.

With the retirement of Miss Hull and appointment of Miss Inch as Deputy in 1984 the post-war era of Miss Vidal was essentially over; only Margaret Outram remained from my student days (she had arrived to her first job in about 1953). Neville maintained much closer relations with Carres than had been usual which helped with the establishment of the Joint Sixth Form in 1983. Change was gradual but it happened (and of course was not always popular); it meant though that the school was in a strong position to deal with the external changes which began with the introduction of GCSEs in the late 1980s, then Ofsted and the National Curriculum.

As befitted a musician Mr MacFarlane encouraged music and drama which were always strengths at KSHS indeed he actively encouraged a whole range of extra-curricular activities, including widening the range of sports on offer. Some people will recall his appearance as Mr. Bumble in Oliver - and outside school he was a regular umpire for Sleaford Cricket Club and choir master for the Choral Society.

A man of many parts indeed, popular with his students and colleagues, he steered the school through a turbulent period in education.



Melody Shanahan-Kluth - 1955-2025

As some of you will know, we lost one of our own last year. Melody Shanahan started at Kesteven and Sleaford High School at the end of the 2nd year in 1968 when her parents moved with the RAF. She then left in 1971 at the end of her school time. But that was not the end of her life at the High School.

In 2004 Melody went back to the High School as the 6th Form Administrator where she spent the next 10 years loving her job, and always called the girls 'her girls'. She loved working in the Office, her work colleagues became friends, and she was immensely proud of what she accomplished while working there. She certainly enjoyed joining in with the fun.

A lot of ex pupils will have spoken to Melody out of school, where she would know pupil's names, her husband Stephen, would quite often be standing there while Melody spoke to a young lady Stephen had never seen before, about what they were doing now, she showed genuine interest. He also said that Melody was popular with the girls, and that she could command a classroom that would sometimes scare a full time teacher when she acted as cover, and always looked forward to handling some of the classes.

Melody had the foresight to set up the Facebook page Kesteven and Sleaford High School old girls about 19 years ago. We now have 1.3 thousand members, not bad for a relatively small school in Sleepy Sleaford.

The page has brought together many ex-classmates from the 50's right up to the present day. It's a page where we share photos, stories and memories, good and bad, along with sharing the sad news of Staff and ex pupils' passing's.

For the first part, it was run by Melody alone, and then to take some burden off her, she enrolled Trish Carroll (Patricia Fulforth 64-72) to help. Although Melody was always on top of the page, knowing which member requests to allow, and which not to stop the annoying advertisements and Trolls.

Because of Melody, the page has grown and grown smoothly over the years only needing extra moderators due to Melody's health declining, but her name will always live on with the page.



We received this letter and details of the life of Kathleen Slater. We hope that it is of interest to you, offering insight into life in the 1920's. Apologies for the reproduction - think of it as adding authenticity to the document!

TO THE HEAD MISTRESS -

DEAR MADAM -

I was a boarder at the School in the 1920's; my surname was POTTER for SOUTH LYME.

I thought you might like to read my Life Story which I wrote a few years ago - This is also a cutting from the Derby Evening Telegraph, they were printing articles about the war.

I'm approaching 86 now - have one son who is a Principal Lecturer at the University of Central England - I also two grandsons.

I live alone, so live with my memories of fatherland
Kathleen E. Slater.

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MY LIFE STORY

by

K.E. Slater

I was brought up on a farm in the Fenland of Lincolnshire, which I enjoyed very much. We lived two and a half miles from school and there was only a grass track for part of the way, so when we were old enough, my brother and I had a Shetland pony and trap and went to school in that.

At twelve years of age I was sent to boarding school which I also really liked. We had lots of fun and some of the girls got up to pranks. I remember one girl hiding the bath plugs, so that no-one could have a bath.

In 1928, after I had finished my nursery training at college, I took a post in Paris as a children's nurse with an American family who had a little boy aged four. That was in November and the following January we went to Gstaad in Switzerland for four months, which is where I learned to ski and skate. One day I went to the top of the Matterhorn and as I came down, one of my skis came off and went right down a ravine. I was very worried about how I would get home, but luckily in our party there was a boy of twelve, who was a good skier and he fetched it for me. After three and a half months, the lady I worked for returned to Paris and left me to see to her son and the rest of her luggage. I had to go down the mountain and stay at another hotel in Vevey for two or three weeks, then get back to Paris on my own with the little boy. It was quite a responsibility as I was only nineteen at the time.

Later I worked for an M.P. and with that family I went to the Coronation of the Queen - our seats were under Big Ben. With yet another family I went to Woburn Abbey for the weekend and I slept in a four-poster bed on the ground floor. The servants told me that it had been used by the Queen Mother. I also worked for a family with a little girl of eight whose Godfather was the Duke of Kent. I remember he gave her a white alsation dog.

A few years later I went to live with a Viscountess just outside Paris. One day in December, when I was coming to England for my holiday the Viscount said, "Don't buy your air ticket to England, I'm going on Friday and I'll take you". He was doing this to get his full licence for flying. Because it was December and it was an open two seater plane it was very cold, I wore six coats to keep warm! Unfortunately on his way back home his plane went down in fog and crashed in the sea. He was never found, although some of the wreckage was discovered. He was just thirty years old that week and his wife was waiting for their fourth child.

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A few years later I went to work for a Dutch family who had two little girls. When the Germans started coming into Paris the family decided that they would send the children and me to their farm in Normandy. On the way we saw people fleeing with all their belongings. Some were on bikes, some on foot, some had goats, one family even had a hearse full of chickens!

On day I noticed that there were lots of German soldiers, tanks and lorries etc. going past the end of the drive and this frightened me to death. A little later the children's mother decided she wanted to go back to Paris. Travelling was not allowed without the Germans' permission so she went to the Kommandantur for permission to travel. She told him that she had an English nurse whom she wanted to take back to Paris. The Germans told her that they were going to put me in a concentration camp. She never said a word to me and left me on the farm with the children and their Auntie. The Auntie did not want the responsibility of me so she decided we would put everything in the car and go to Paris. We had to keep stopping at various checkpoints and I told the children to speak only in French when we were stopped. Luckily the Auntie spoke fluent German and we got through okay. When we got to our home in Paris we found that all the English people had to sign on with the Gestapo each week.

In December 1939, I was out with the little girls outside Paris one day when I saw several buses full of German soldiers, and wondered what was happening. I was soon to find out because I had not been in long before a German soldier came to take me to a concentration camp. When he arrived, I didn't go out straight away, as one of the family spoke fluent German and kept phoning the Kommandantur, so see if I could be let off. This began at 1.00 p.m. and by 7.00 p.m. I still had not left the house, so seven more Germans arrived in the hall with tin hats and guns, and of course that meant that I had to leave! It seems funny now, but it certainly wasn't funny then.

The Germans put me on a train with other detainees and we were shunted backwards and forwards all through the night. In the morning we were back at the same place that we had started from. Eventually we were taken to a town called Besancon and put in barracks previously used by soldiers, where we had to sleep on the floor on straw mattresses full of bugs. There were thirty two of us in our room, including a tiny baby, a boy of twelve and several nuns. Later a friend of mine called Miss Lamdin, whom I used to know in Paris, arrived and she told me that when her party came to the camp one of the women dropped dead at the foot of the stairs with the shock of it all. After another week or two some more internees arrived. One was called Nadine and she was later to be my friend. Initially Nadine had a room on her own, but was later joined by two other people I came to know, Mrs. Courts and Ursula Wright.

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The first meal I had at Besancon consisted of a huge pail of semolina with black pudding mixed in it. Two of us had to queue for this and carry it back to the others in our room. Luckily I had taken a few tins of sardines but they did not last long. We had no cutlery or anything to eat with, so we went to a rubbish dump and found knives, forks, spoons and a pair of boots, with the soles coming off, which had been thrown away by the soldiers who had previously used the barracks. We used to have a spoonful of jam for supper and occasionally we were also given bread. This was a hard, flat sort of black bread which tasted horrible and made you ill and there was always three quarters of an inch of mould on top of it. One day we were told to go and peel enough swedes for everyone's dinner - we stood there for four hours peeling them.

The toilets we had to use certainly left a lot to be desired! They consisted of planks of wood where you had to squat down and two holes where you sat back to back. One day another type of toilet contraption was delivered; this was made of iron with steps up to a door which was waist high. There were six cubicles joined together and the toilets consisted of a metal grill to stand on with a hole in the middle and a huge bin underneath. Sometimes the French soliders, who were detailed to empty them, would come and move the bins from underneath you.

Later on we were moved into smaller rooms in the camp, where there were stoves and we were issued with wood and coal - not very much, but at least we had a fire now and again in the winter. We used to slap the bread on the side of the stove and call it toast. It still tasted horrible, as did the coffee which was made from acorns. We had to use empty tins to make our "coffee" in and drink it from. There was a field kitchen where we had to queue up for water to make a drink - a cup of tea if we were lucky!

In April we were moved to Vittel, near Alsace, to a part of the town where the hotels had been wired off to make a civilian internee camp. One of my room-mates there was called Rita and she told me that when she was picked up by the Germans she was handcuffed and put in a cell with a hole in the centre for a toilet. She still had bruises on her wrists from the handcuffs when she arrived. One of the hotels was used as a hospital with German, English and French doctors and a dentist. Rita used to do secretarial work over there and so we could get a chit to see the doctor of our choice if we were not very well. The doctors gave us a chit for horlicks or something similar if we were ill and needed nourishment. One woman was an awful nuisance so all the doctors decided to play a joke on her. She had to queue at each of the doctors in turn and finally the dentist, who told her that there was something wrong with her mouth and they would have to stick it up for a few days. Then

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she had to go to all the doctors again for the nourishment she needed as she could only drink through a hole in the plaster over her mouth with a straw. Apparently she had been passing goods to the enemy.

Eventually the Germans told us that if we cleaned up the old kitchen in our 'hotel' we could use it, as we were getting Red Cross parcels by then and some of the tins needed warming up. We used to tie a string round the tin to be heated, with our room number on the end of the string and then drop it, with the others, into a huge pan of boiling water. I was one of the several who volunteered to go on a rota duty to keep the kitchen running and I spent many hours heating up tins of food.

We organised a "swop" board and would put on it things such as 'will give a tin of meat for a packet of cigarettes or a quarter of tea'. A while later some of the women's husbands were brought from another camp, St. Denis, where they too had been interned earlier. They told us that they had had to eat potato peelings from the dustbins to survive. After their arrival we had another move round, so that families could be together. Some of the men arrived from Northern France and one of them told us that he saw Germans being chained together in boats, to be sent across The Channel to England. Another said he had been told to drive a lorry somewhere and when he arrived he found it was full of dead soldiers.

We had a lot of talent in the camp. There was a tinsmith who could make us a teapot if we took him two empty tins. My friend Nadine had come from a circus where she rode in the "wall of death". We also had a violinist, a gym teacher and others who organised sports and concerts for us. The Germans eventually allowed us to use the theatre in the Casino for our concerts. We put on various shows, including the opera "Carmen" and an international event, in which all the children dressed in national costumes. One sports day I won a vase which I still have to this day. It had "Lady Champion of the Camp" on the ticket because I had won more races than anyone else. We were told not to cut up our sheets etc., but we did and made shorts for sports days. We asked if we could have a fancy dress on Shrove Tuesday and the Germans agreed, so I cut a brown blanket in two and suggested that my friend Maggie and I went as two posts and barbed wire. There were at least twelve rows of wire round the camps to keep us in. For the fancy dress I unravelled a rust coloured jumper and tied it so we were about four feet apart and then I tied little knots all over it, so it looked like barbed wire. We wore brown balaclavas on our heads and made masks to put on our faces so that we would not be recognised. We had to walk down four floors fastened together! You should have seen the Germans' faces when we walked in, they were flabbergasted.

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One hotel was designated for Jewish people. The Germans decided to move some of them and neither they nor we knew where they were going, although as the war went on we heard about some of the terrible things happening to Jewish people. When I was out one day I saw a certain lady and I said to her "those poor Jews won't know where they are going" to which she replied "oh no, they won't, because all the carriage windows have been boarded up". She was pro German! Some of the Jews committed suicide, some by jumping from the fifth floor. Of course we presumed that those who went away went to the extermination camps. One Jewish woman was ill in hospital so they left her and took her husband and little girl away without her.

Sometimes when we had Red Cross Parcels we used to bribe the French prisoners of war (who were looking after us) to bring in electric rings from the town, so that we could have a cup of tea. One day an announcement came over the loud speakers that all electric rings had to be given in to the Kommandantur. I took mine down and sitting at the desk was Serve who asked what I wanted. When I said I had brought my electric ring down, he got up, opened a door into another room and stood behind it. He said "put it over there on the mantelpiece," which was on the other side of the room. I could sense what he was going to do, which was shut the door with me inside, so I fled leaving the electric ring on the table.

Towards the end of the war, I, like several others, came to England in exchange for so many Germans who were prisoners in England. We were on the train for two weeks before arriving in Oporto. On the way we parked in between two troop trains or ammunition trains, guarding a petrol dump. Suddenly we heard planes and it was the Americans who had come over and machine gunned us. We fled under the hedges and into the cornfields. That night we slept in a park on the grass. The next day we were off on the train again. Our journey took us over the famous bridge at Avignon. The trouble was that there was a very large hole in it and only two railway lines to get across. It was really frightening for we could see the river directly below us. At Nimes we had to get off the train and travel by coach to Marseilles because the lines had been bombed or put out of action by the resistance. We had another delay when we arrive in Portugal for there was a small fire on the train. When we eventually got to the border of Spain and Portugal at Irun, the Germans left us. You can imagine what a state we were in when we finally arrived in Oporto; filthy and with very swollen legs, as we had not been able to lie down or wash for a fortnight.

Once we got there, we were kept on a Scandinavian boat for a week and the Red Cross in Oporto gave us some clothes and shoes. Eventually we set off in the boat, without any ballast because of mines and crossed the Bay of Biscay to return home

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to Liverpool. Was it a rough journey! Everybody was flat out because it was even too rough to stand.

From Liverpool I went to Lincoln and my brother picked me up from there, after a lot of searching to find me. That was not the end of my battle; I soon found that life in England was also to be difficult for me. I first realised this when I went to Sleaford one day with my mother and found that I was terrified to cross the road. Since then I have suffered from agoraphobia and, despite treatment, to this day I still cannot go out alone.

I married at the age of 38. I am now 83 years old and still correspond with another internee. I do not sleep very well, so I live with my memories, good and bad. The more recent Gulf War brought my memories to the forefront of my mind and that is why I have written this. I really do hope there will never be another war and that no-one else has to suffer such memories as these, or from the after effects of war for the rest of their lives.

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Report lifted from Lincolnshire World 9th July 2026, written by Andy Hubbard

Carre's Grammar School has announced that its headteacher Nick Law is to step down after 18 years in post to take up a new wider role within the academy trust of which it is a part.

Mr Law has been Carre's headteacher since January 2008, and Executive Headteacher of Carre's and Kesteven and **Sleaford** High School since 2015. He is moving on to a new role as Director of Secondary Education at the Community Inclusive Trust which supports the two schools. He will be succeeded by Josephine Smith, who has been Head of School at Kesteven and Sleaford High School for a number of years, and will take up the post of Executive Headteacher in September, continuing to lead the schools as part of the Community Inclusive Trust.

Mr Law has led the school through a period of significant change and development. During this time, the school has been inspected by Ofsted five times, converted to Academy status in 2011, and in 2015 became a founding member of the Robert Carre Trust, a Multi Academy Trust formed in partnership with Kesteven and Sleaford High School, before later joining the C.I.T.

Reflecting on his departure, Mr Law said: "It has been the privilege of my working life to serve as headteacher of Carre's and Executive Headteacher of the Robert Carre Trust for these past eighteen and a half years. I have watched thousands of young people come through our doors and go on to achieve remarkable things, and I am enormously proud of everything this school community has built together.

"I want to thank the staff, Trustees, governors, parents and students, past and present, who have made this such a rewarding journey. I leave with complete confidence in the future of Carre's and KSHS, and in Mrs Smith as she takes up the role of Executive Headteacher." The formation of the Robert Carre Trust in 2015 marked a significant milestone in Mr Law's tenure, bringing Carre's Grammar School and Kesteven and Sleaford High School together under a shared trust to strengthen collaboration between the two schools while preserving each school's individual identity and ethos.

Helen Mountain, Chair of Governors at Carre's Grammar School, paid tribute to Mr Law's contribution: "Nick has given this school eighteen and a half years of outstanding leadership and unwavering commitment.

"On behalf of the governing body, I want to thank Nick for his dedication, his integrity, and the lasting legacy he leaves behind. We wish him every success in his new role as Director of Secondary Education at the Community Inclusive Trust, and we are delighted that Josephine Smith will be taking on the role of Executive Headteacher from September, ensuring a smooth and confident transition for the school."

Mrs Smith commented on the move: "I am delighted and excited to take up the role of Executive Headteacher across Kesteven and Sleaford High School and Carre's Grammar School and as part of the Community Inclusive Trust.

"I look forward to building on the existing collaboration between both schools to ensure that parents of students in the town continue to have access to the best possible education for their young people."

Replacing her as Head of School at KSHS will be Katy Stokes, who had been one of her assistant headteachers at the school.



This year we are offering the sale of the school enamel badge and limited edition prints of the school entrance. All proceeds are for the PTA. Badges are £2 and prints, for preorder, are £10. Please see a committee member if you would like to purchase.

Date of the next meeting – our September meeting venue is kindly offered to us by the school, and coincides with one of the 11+ examination day. The date is to be confirmed but is likely to be Saturday 18th September 2027.

Contact details and the Social Forum

The association facebook page is - Kesteven and Sleaford High School for Girls Old Girls

The contact details for the committee are:

Email KSHSOGA@gmail.com

Post KSHS OGA Chair, C/O 42 Westgate, Sleaford, Lincs NG34 7PN

Past and current copies of the newsletter is also on the school website
www.kshssa.co.uk/old-girls-association

Your OGA committee members

Chair Michelle Tupholme

Vice Chair Vacant

Secretary Viv Porteus

Treasurer Elizabeth Curley

Newsletter editor Vacant

Committee Sarah Carter

Pam Edwards

Sarah Graves

Kate Hodson

Suzy Jones

Elizabeth Venn

We would welcome new volunteers to the committee, especially since key roles are soon due for reallocation!