

From the Headteacher

Thank you to our students and staff for all their hard work over the term. Particular thanks go to Mrs Thurlow who is retiring after over 35 years' service to the school. As she moves on to new adventures we wish her the very best and thank her for enthusiasm, dedication and commitment. I know that the many thousands of students who have been in her care would join me in wanting to say a big thank you.

You should all have received a copy of our School Building Fund campaign. I hope that you will support us and encourage your sons and daughters to make best possible use of the resources we have in school. It is not something that we take lightly; it reflects the challenges that many schools are facing. As Staffordshire headteachers, we have recently sent a collective letter to both local MPs and Ministers in Westminster to emphasise the gravity of the funding crisis in education.

As always, in school we keep our focus on how we can best provide for our students to achieve and thrive in school. If you have further ideas or suggestions to secure further support for the school then please get in touch by letter, phonecall or via office@kingedwardvi-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk.

Have a lovely Easter break and we look forward to welcoming students back on Monday 24th April.

Jane Rutherford

Headteacher

School Building Fund

The schools funding crisis has been the focus of much media attention lately, with Staffordshire one of the worst hit areas per student in the country. Our school buildings are in dire need of repair, refurbishment and replacement – but, with a shrinking budget and rising costs, we are struggling to provide the basic quality of accommodation that our students deserve.

The school environment has a huge impact upon students' morale – and this is why we've launched our Building Fund Appeal. By supporting the appeal, you can help us continue to provide a positive learning environment and maintain our school heritage for the future.

How you can help make a difference to the appeal

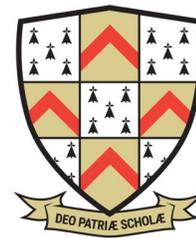
- Text 70070 with 'KEVI18 and the donation amount in pounds.
- Make a donation or set up a regular contribution via [ParentPay](#). We'll provide a monthly update to show how where this money is going.
- Make your donation via cheque payable to King Edward VI School Trust Fund (marked KEVI18 Building Fund)
- Pay via bank transfer or standing order to 20-85-13 00550086 (quoting reference KEVI Building Fund)

In addition you can help by collecting free funds every time you shop online by signing up with [easyfundraising](#).

Useful links

More about the [Building Trust Fund Appeal](#) on our website

www.schoolcuts.org.uk – put in your postcode to see the potential impact of cuts on local schools.



KING EDWARD VI
SCHOOL LICHFIELD

2017 Summer Term Diary Dates

Easter holidays

Monday 10 April – Friday 21 April

Term starts

Monday 24 April

May half term

Monday 29 May - Friday 2 June

May day holiday

Monday 1 May

Y10 internal assessments and examinations

Monday 3 April to Friday 7 April/

Monday 24 April to Friday 28 April

External assessments and examinations

Monday 15 May - Thursday 29 June

Summer reports

w/c Monday 26 June - Y8/Y10

w/c Monday 3 July - Y7/9

Parents' evenings

Thursday 4 May -Y7

Thursday 25 May - Y10

Curriculum enhancement day

Thursday 13 July

PTA meetings

Wednesday 26 April

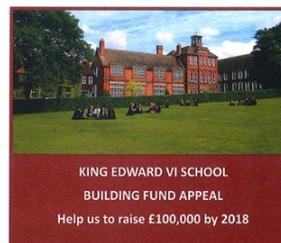
Tuesday 6 June

Y11 Prom

Wednesday 28 June 7.30pm

Y13 Ball

Friday 30 June 7.30pm



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Email: office@kingedwardvi-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk
www.kevi18.org.uk

School updates

Farewell from the 2016-17 Senior Five

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to everyone that has supported the Senior Five this year, with particular thanks to Ms Rutherford, Mr Butler, Miss Williamson, Mr Murray, Mrs Patey-Round and the Finance Office for their assistance.

I hope we have left the school a better place. We are proud to have introduced the International Sporting Honours Board, represented the school in front of Dame Margaret Drabble on Samuel Johnson Day and to have assisted the PTA with their fundraising.

It has been a privilege to work alongside Harry Yates, Saona Tomlinson, Dan Slater and Katie Haber. I wish them and the rest of Year 13 every success as they take their next steps.

New Senior 5

We are excited to pass the baton to the new Senior Five in May and slightly less excited to begin our study leave. I am pleased to announce the Senior Five elect is:

- Emily Danks - School Captain
- Billy Green - Head Boy
- Katie Sharp - Head Girl
- Bobby Newman - Deputy Head Boy
- Laura Bryan - Deputy Head Girl

It has been an honour representing King Edwards this year, and I hope next year's Senior Five take as much pleasure from the role as we did. We hope we have made you proud.

Signing off.

Ben Abell

2016-17 School Captain

Keeping in touch

All parents should have received log-in details to our [Switch Learning Platform](#). You can use this to see timetable information, daily achievement and behaviour points and in 2017-18 we are planning for reports to be uploaded rather than sent home on paper.

In the second half of the summer term we are also going to trial the use of the online Show My Homework site with two year groups in Key Stage 3. We recognise that parents are keen to support their children with their independent learning and that students benefit from clear instructions which do not always translate from their planner to reality. It will allow us to provide additional online sources where necessary and as parents you will have a clearer overview of tasks and deadlines.

We have recently changed our texting service to Groupcall and are seeking to make best use of the most cost effective way to keep in touch. We will be sharing information about the free Groupcall Xpressions app which can be used to send texts but does not carry a per message charge. We hope that you will find it useful and it will help us to be as cost effective as possible.



(Top l-r): Dan Slater, Harry Yates, Ben Abell, Saona Tomlinson, Katie Haber

(Bottom l-r): Bobby Newman, Billy Green, Emily Danks, Katie Sharp, Laura Bryan

Finally, we anticipate being able to send letters or documents to you via email. Your most recent email address can be drawn from our Parents' Evening booking system or from Parent Pay. If you do receive an email but wish to change the address we use then just let us know.

With all communication, if you require paper copies or copies in a more accessible format then please get in touch. If you send in a note with your child, call us or drop in to reception then we will do our best to ensure that you have the information you need in a suitable format.

School updates

Attendance Update

Attendance figures to 30 March 2017 against our target of 96% are as follows:

Whole school:	95.4%
Years 7-11:	94.8%
Years 12-13:	97.2%

Please ensure that any changes to mobile numbers or other contact details are communicated to school as soon as possible so that records are always up to date.

New text number

We have recently introduced a new way of reporting absence.

If your child is too ill to attend school, please contact us via text on 07860 034183 by 9.15am on the first morning of the absence, leaving the following details:

- Student name
- Tutor group
- A brief reason for absence

Absence

For safeguarding reasons, if a student has been marked as absent without a reason a text message will be sent informing you that your child is not in school. Please respond to the text as a matter of urgency with a reason for the absence.

Please ensure that any changes to mobile numbers or other contact details are communicated to school as soon as possible so that records are always up to date.

Medical and dental appointments

Routine medical and dental appointments should be made outside school hours. If this is not possible, please inform the school via text in advance. A written note signed by a parent / carer will be required when signing either in or out of Bader Reception on the day of the appointment.

Please note that if a student attends a routine medical appointment there is an expectation that they attend school for some part of the day of the appointment.

Leave of absence

To apply for any leave of absence, including funerals, sporting fixtures and external music exams, please complete a Leave of Absence Request Form and return to school as far in advance as possible for consideration by the headteacher. Failure to follow this procedure may lead to the absence automatically being recorded as unauthorised.

Please note that if a student has to leave site for any reason a note must be brought into school and signed and dated by their form tutor before signing out at Bader Reception. Students MUST NOT leave the premises without the permission of the school.

Our full [Attendance Policy](#), including the [Leave of Absence Request Form](#) is available on the website.

Confirmation of inset days

Monday 4 September and Tuesday 5 September 2017 will both be INSET days.

Students will, therefore, return to school on Wednesday 6 September 2017.

Anti-bullying group opens new space

The sixth-form anti-bullying group will be opening the Space Base on Tuesday and Wednesday lunchtimes for students to drop in and hang out - a great place for students to get away from the hustle and bustle of lunchtimes.

Find it opposite the table-tennis table near the mobile classrooms (or ask at the LRC for directions). You can bring your lunch, and there are games to enjoy as well. And remember – the anti-bullying team are a good point of contact if you have concerns about bullying in school.

Remember that if you experience or witness any form of bullying, you MUST report it – by speaking to a member of staff, a parent, an anti-bullying group member, or by using the email antibullying@kingedwardvi-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk.

Success for Young Enterprise team

Our Young Enterprise team, 'Timmy Toothy Toothbrush', had a successful evening at the Local Area Board finals in March at Burton Albion FC's Pirelli Stadium winning the Business Plan and Trade/Marketing Stand awards.

Congratulations to the team representing the school:

Nick Docherty (1201),
Callum Oliver (1206),
Laura Bryan (1204), Holly
Brownridge (1203), James Armstrong (1207), Isobel Horsley (1201),
Lauren Fox (1202), Daisy Hurcombe (1208), Jonathan Hucklebridge-Key (1202) and Kat Bartlett (1206).



The Young Enterprise team in action

News from around the school

ICT

It's been an exciting term for Key Stage 3 ICT and Computing. Y7 continue with the tech rotation, creating imaginative animations on the theme of E-Safety. Y8 have completed their new theme park ride design simulations, using Scratch with some excellent examples. To try Scratch out at home, visit: <https://scratch.mit.edu/>. Y9 completed an excellent project creating an App for the Sea Life Centre in Birmingham.

Coursework has started in earnest for KS4, with various creative projects from DVD covers for 'Energy Matters' to animations for Superfizz. Meanwhile, Y12 begin to revise for their first round of exams for the new Cambridge Technicals course and Y13 are busy preparing for the moderator visit on May 8th. Good luck all!

German Exchange 2016/2017

Following a successful trip to Germany in 2016, the second leg of the exchange began on March 18 with the arrival of the German students to King Edwards School. Students spent time in school in lessons, as well as taking part in two day trips to Cadbury World and the Black Country Museum.



Students at Cadbury World

After some emotional goodbyes on the final day, friendships have been formed that will last for a long time and we hope to see quite a number of students taking part again next year! A thank you from Mrs Dunn to all the staff at King Edwards whose classes were bigger – quite considerably in some cases – for their support during the week.



Ready Steady Cook house competition

Languages

Y11 have completed their final speaking and writing CAs, so the focus now shifts to listening and reading practice. To help, they should learn vocab from their books or from vocab learning apps, do past papers (our exam board is AQA but any practice is useful) and try zut.org.uk (French)

and gut.languageskills.co.uk (German) for online listening and reading tasks. MFL teachers have the passwords for these sites if used during the school day (9am - 4pm on weekdays) but otherwise it's free.

Members of the Y12 French group will be heading off to stay with their penpals in Staffordshire's twin county, the Limousin. As well as improving their oral skills, the exchange will increase their knowledge of France with cultural visits and enable them to forge new friendships.

Finally, thank you to former pupil and linguist, Charlotte Abell, who has been giving extra speaking practice to Y13 pupils in preparation for their oral exams. We wish her well with her law conversion course. If you, or someone you know, is able to help with this for French or German, contact Mrs J Briden on jbriden@kingedwardvi-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk

The MFL Department wishes everyone taking languages exams this summer *Bonne Chance & Alles Gute!*



Y9 History at Belgium battlefield sites

Biology

Year 13 Biology students have just created their own GM bacteria (they glow under UV light) by inserting the gene from a jellyfish (gfp) into the bacterium, using a plasmid and transformation.

University visit for History students

26 Y9 pupils attended the annual History Quest at Birmingham University on the 28 March for a chance to experience university life, a lecture and a tutorial on mythology (which was definitely one they knew something about). They finished the visit with an inter-school history quiz—



(l to r): Ellie Evans, Ethan Armstrong, Jessica Hughes

and an unexpected victory to Ethan Armstrong (9A1), Ellie Evans (9C1) and Jessica Hughes (9C1) who won a trophy. Well done to everyone on the day, all the students had a great time.

News from around the school

LRC celebrates World Book Day

The start of the new half term kicked off with the annual World Book Day celebrations. Author Miriam Halahmy visited the LRC to talk to students. World Book Day itself was marked in the LRC by a rather more unusual take on the



Sputtastic: the winning entries

tradition of dressing up as famous literary characters, with a competition aimed at encouraging students to dress a potato as a favourite character. Caitlin Williams (7C1) scooped first place with The Cheshire Cat from Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. Well done to Callum Mahmood (8G1) with Skellig from the David Almond novel who came in second place and Chris Newey (11A1) with Paddington Bear in third place.

We have been chosen as World Book Night givers – so at lunchtime on Monday 24 April, Mrs Emery will be handing out free books to sixth formers!



Y10 BTEC Performing Arts Theatre Company performed 3 plays, based upon impact of World War I.

Students create fruit and vegetable garden

A recent ASDAN grant funded project enabled the Learning Support Unit to create a fruit and vegetable garden.

Much of the work in the Unit centres around developing social and communication skills so the team decided to create a space where students could interact and develop a variety of skills. The students were keen to develop the space as a wildlife garden and a place they could enjoy socially at lunchtimes.

Students helped assemble the new garden furniture and took on the challenge of lining the interior of the shed with plywood.

The beds have been regularly maintained and we have successfully grown a variety of vegetables, including potatoes and beans which have been taken home to share and enjoy.



Getting down to work: Students and site team working together

These activities have enabled the students to complete ASDAN challenges in the Communication and Environment Modules, as well as gaining a variety of skills such as teamwork and coping with problems.

'Wheely' colourful challenge for Y7 students

Following the launch of the Art Department's 'Alternative Colour Wheel' Y7 competition before February half term, we had a fantastic response from students. The overall winner was Alex McConnell (7D1) for her giant flower petals creation.



Alex McConnell's winning entry

House winners and runners up: William Gripton (7A1), Taraporn Suropho (7A2), Amber Bissell (7A2), Luke Delgiudice (7C1), Sian Duval (7C1), Harrison Clements (7C2), Robyn Tonks (7C2), Chris Macdonald (7D1), Tom Smith (7D2), Tayef Rahman (7D2), Madeline Taylor (7G1), Keira Williams (7G1), Ben Ogden (7G2).



Y10 students, Joel Bird (10A1), Samantha Collins (10D1), Kai Suzuki (10G2) and Chester Roche-Allen

Sports Results

Indoor athletics

We were county finalists for the indoor athletics competitions, well done to all the Y7&8 girls and boys teams who performed.



Netball

We entered 2 Y9 teams into the District tournament. The B team won 2 out of their 6 games. The A team won all their games and are now District Champions - well done team!

Congratulations to the Year 8 Netball team, who won the Year 8 Netball Tournament this term, beating seven other schools. They faced Cardinal Griffin in the final beating them 6 - 1.

In the final week of term, we played in the District Year 7 Netball competition. The A squad won all their fixtures and are now District Champions. The B squad made it to the semi-final. All girls were superb, training twice a week all year and are a credit to the school.

Football

Y11 v Cheslyn Hay 3-2 (L)

Hockey

The U13 hockey team played in the In2hockey competition. They

were winners of their group, beating Newcastle and St Edwards and drawing with de Ferrers before narrowly losing the semi finals. A great effort by all of the players.

Our u13 squad played in a District competition: they won 2 games, drew 1 game and lost 1.

Cross Country

Congratulations to our cross country teams. Y7&8/9 Boys and Girls and Y10/11 Boys were crowned District Champions. Our teams won every race and team event at the most recent District competition.



Rugby

Congratulations to our 1st team rugby squad who were worthy winners of the U18 County Schools Plate competition played at Newcastle school on 29 March.



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