

Seasons Greetings!

We were all taken by surprise by the snow and ice last week; thank you for your understanding as we took the necessary decisions to respond to the changing circumstances. It is never an easy decision to close the school but sometimes it is necessary. We do try and make an early decision but this has to be based on the condition of the site as well as the forecast. If you had any issues in receiving text alerts or emails then please check your contact details with us. (see guidance on page 4). We recognise that some students travel a considerable distance to get here and that there were some issues with the school buses; it is a parental decision as to whether it is safe to travel.

The Carol Service is one of the key events in our autumn calendar and it is the first time we have had to cancel the event in a very long time. We have enjoyed some of the performances during assemblies over the last week and there are plans to share some of them by video. A huge thank you goes to the music department and over one hundred students who were due to take part; we really appreciate the time and effort which has gone in to rehearsals.

As we approach the end of term, I would like to thank staff and students for all their hard work. You will see just some of the extra-curricular events and projects which have taken place feature in this edition of Kespress. The spring term will bring further opportunities for us all.

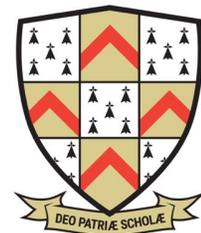
We will be saying farewell to Mrs Cobden this week. Having worked at the school for over twenty years, she will be missed as a colleague, a teacher and a fantastic supporter of extra-curricular sport. Mrs Cobden has been fundamental to the development of netball across the school, leading trips to Barbados, taking weekly practice sessions and supporting our teams. For much of her time in school, Mrs Cobden has also been a Head of Year and more recently, Achievement Leader; working with thousands of students and their families over time. We wish her the very best for the future.

I would like to wish you all a restful and enjoyable Christmas break. We start the new term on Wednesday 3rd January 2018.

Jane Rutherford, Headteacher

Christmas Gifts

Many thanks to all those parents and students who have donated Christmas Gifts as part of our annual appeal to support the local community. The gifts have been wrapped and taken to The Hope Centre and Pathway Project, a local organisation which provides a range of services including refuge accommodation, a helpline, children's services, and support and counselling for victims of domestic abuse. Other gifts have been taken to Wade Street Church where they will be shared with groups that the church work with, including the Monday lunch group for senior citizens.



KING EDWARD VI
SCHOOL LICHFIELD

2018 Spring Term

Diary Dates

Return to school

Wed 3rd Jan

Half Term Holiday

Mon 19th Feb — Fri 23rd Feb

Other key dates

Mon 8th Jan — Fri 19th Jan
Y11 Practice Examinations

Mon 22nd Jan — Fri 2nd Feb
Y9 Options Discussions with
Form Tutors

Thurs 1st Feb — Y9, Y10, Y11
Intermediate Maths Challenge

Parents' evenings

Tues 9th Jan — Y8 evening

Wed 17th Jan—Y10 Courses
Evening for Y9 parents

Tues 23rd Jan — Y12 evening

Wed 31st Jan — Y10 Parents
Information Evening —
supporting revision

Thursday 1st March —Y9
evening

PTA meetings and events

Fri 9th Feb — PTA Quiz Bader
Hall

The Spring term ends on
Thursday 29th March

School updates

PTA

The Christmas Fayre, which was held on Friday 24th November, raised £1,855 from the food and stalls. This, together with the student-led raffle raised over £3,000 for the school! Thank you to students, parents and staff who helped make this a great evening.

The next full meeting of the PTA is on Wednesday 10th January at 7 pm in Bader Bistro; all welcome.

This term we have been able to fund the purchase of 28 footballs for use at lunch time and are pleased that these are already in use! We have also committed £1,000 to a new sound system for Bader Hall.

If you are doing your Christmas shopping online, please do consider registering with Easyfundraising; this raises money for the school with no cost to yourself.

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ kingedwardlichfield We hope to launch a new school lottery in 2018. More information will be given on this and our next event in the new year.

If you do wish to contact the PTA, please email us at kingedwardspta@gmail.com or a leave a message with Bader reception.

Wishing you all a festive Christmas and a happy new year.

Uniform Update

With the particularly poor weather we've been experiencing, it is often necessary for students to wear alternative footwear that offers more grip in icy conditions. We would expect to see students return to their normal school footwear as soon as the conditions improve. For further advice on appropriate school shoes, please see our [online guidance](#).

It has been great to see so many students taking the opportunity to wear a school V-neck jumper with our school badge. The badge is not essential, but jumpers worn underneath blazers must be plain black knitted V-neck with no other symbols or logos. Students must always have their blazers in school.

As we look ahead to the new year, we would like to remind you of our expectations for students wearing uniform appropriately – particularly in regard to shirts being tucked-in, and skirts worn at an appropriate length. Students who do not follow these expectations will be challenged on this issue, and risk further sanctions in school. Please support us by impressing on your children the need to maintain an appropriate image for a working environment. Further guidance on wearing uniform appropriately can be found at http://www.keslichfield.org.uk/?page_id=385

Senior 5

We would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Hope you all have a nice break and get well rested, you deserve it. So this term we have welcomed the new prefects, who have already started with their new duties, and we look forward to working with them this year. But it has also meant we've had to say goodbye to our year 13 prefects. Thank you for all the hard work and support you have given to us and the school this year and last, the new prefects certainly have big shoes to fill. We also have had the Christmas fayre, which was a huge success, the stalls in the hall were some of the craziest we've ever had! We were blown away by the amount of tickets you guys sold for the Christmas raffle this year; we managed to make over £1100 for the School Council, which is outstanding! We thank you for all your support. Coming up, we have the trolley dash competition for the sixth form, to raise money for charity, we are all very excited to see what costumes you have this year and wish you good luck in the race! Thank you all, see you next term. Merry Christmas!

Katie Sharp on behalf of the Senior Five

Equipped to learn?

One of the most frustrating things that can disrupt the beginning of lessons is when teachers have to deal with students who fail to bring the correct equipment. It would help us a great deal if you could check that your child(ren) has everything they need for their day. In time, students will be able to take responsibility for organising themselves. However, experience shows us that some students need extra help from parents to get into good habits. A full list of essential equipment can be viewed here. <http://www.keslichfield.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Essential-equipment-list1.pdf>



School updates

Attendance Update

Attendance figures to 13th December 2017 against our target of 96% are as follows:

Whole school:	95.53%
Years 7-11*:	95.69%
Years 12-13:	94.74%

Student Attendance Figures:

You will be aware that you are now able to see your child's attendance figures on the Switch Learning Platform. If this information does not appear to be in line with your knowledge of your child's attendance, in the first instance, please allow up to 5 school days for the issue to be resolved by our continual register checking and updating process. If you still believe that an error may have been made, please raise your query with attendance@kingedwardvi-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk

Changes to Penalty Notices for Absence from School:

Following the recent Isle of Wight case and the subsequent Supreme Court ruling on school absences, Staffordshire County Council have issued new guidelines with regard to issuing Penalty Notices for absence. We are currently in the process of reviewing this information and updating our Attendance Policy with respect to leave of absence due to holidays, persistent lateness and unauthorised absence.

Attendance Reminders:

Please communicate all unplanned absences e.g. illness **via text on 07860 034183** by 9.15am on the first day of absence.

Please also confirm details of medical appointments, which you cannot make out of school time, in advance **via text**. In addition to this, students should be given a note from a parent/carer together with an appointment card/letter for when they sign in or out of school for the appointment.

Any leave of absence should be applied for as far in advance as possible on a **Leave of Absence Form**, available on the school website.

If communication is not received about an absence, it may result in that absence being recorded as unauthorised.

Students who arrive in school after the end of registration, without good reason, will receive an unauthorised absence mark (U code). Please note that 6th Form students who have a period 1 lesson must attend registration which starts at 8.55am.

Please remember that students must not leave the premises without the permission of the school. We would also remind you that if your child is not feeling well during the school day they should report to Bader Reception for an assessment and NOT phone parents directly.

More details about attendance, including our Attendance Policy and Attendance Matters leaflet can be found on the Attendance page of the school website.

Please send any comments/feedback to:
attendance@kingedwardvi-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk

Updating contact details

Over the last term we have been working with new forms of communication in school. Show My Homework has allowed teachers to communicate more information with students to help them with their homework. We are continuing to explore some elements of the programme and will share this with students and parents in due course.

The groupcall email system has allowed us to share detailed information with parents more quickly than previously and has helped us to use less paper. On occasions we are finding that messages do not get through. We try to keep our contacts up to date, please help us to do this by letting us know if you have a new email address or mobile number.

You can update your details by emailing:
studentdetails@kingedwardvi-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk

Sometimes messages can be delayed or fail to be delivered because of firewalls or anti-virus software. By adding the email addresses office@kingedwardvi-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk and 8604087@groupcallalert.com to your email address book this can help messages to be received and not sent to spam or junk email boxes.

News from around the school

Anti-Bullying Pledge Scheme

A group of staff, students and governors had the honour of welcoming Gill Venables from The Anti-Bullying Pledge Scheme into school on Friday morning. It was a great opportunity to share and celebrate the work of the anti-bullying group, and to receive a certificate of reaccreditation to the anti-bullying pledge scheme.



Anti-bullying group members Laura Bryan and Rosie Farrell (Year 13) shared some of the activities from the past year, including the parents' anti-bullying presentation, odd socks day, anti-bullying ambassadors, and the development of the space base (a special place

in the school where students can find a bit of quiet during the often hectic lunchtimes).

Year 8 students Chris MacDonald and Connor Sharman also shared their views about anti-bullying work in the school, and contributed to a valuable discussion about the challenges of developing a culture of healthy relationships in a secondary school environment.

Anti-bullying coordinator Mr Goodhead said of the event 'this was a fantastic chance to reflect on the hard work of the anti-bullying ambassadors over the past 12 months. Our recent Ofsted report praised the work of the school in this area. This is testament to the dedication of our students who keep working to create the best possible environment in which students feel safe, and know that they will be supported should they experience any difficulties. Recognition of these efforts by the anti-bullying pledge scheme is one of the ways we seek to maintain the profile of this crucial issue. Research suggests that this is one of the most effective ways to reduce the chances of bullying in schools.'

After refreshments, a visit to the space base, and a brief photo opportunity, Mr Chris Cartwright (Chair of Governors) closed the proceedings with a vote for thanks for our guests and further praise for the ongoing commitment of our students.



(L-R) Chris Cartwright , Cathy Forster (Deputy Headteacher), Matt Holden (Governor), Gill Venables, Chris MacDonald, Connor Sharman, Rosie Farrall, Laura Bryan (Deputy Head Girl), Tim Habart (Governor).

ICT Department

The Autumn term has proven to be a busy month for students in ICT and Computing akin to life in a Zoo!

Year 7 and 8 have been surrounded by MicroBits coding their own virtual pets with insatiable appetites and a menagerie of emotions.

Year 9 have been learning how to code in Python designing programs that produce intricate graphics using a Turtle.

Many Year 10s have been working hard studying the Microsoft Office Specialist in after school twilight classes whilst Year 11 have been completing their second extended coursework project promoting a new drink.

Year 12 have been investigating computer systems at NASA and Year 13 have produced high quality prototype Gym Class Booking apps for Nuffield Health.

A productive half term for all!

Christmas Lunch



Well Done to the students in 7D1 who sold the most raffle tickets for the Christmas Fayre. They had an early serving of Christmas Lunch!



A big thank you to the kitchen staff who cooked an amazing Christmas Lunch for the students on Wednesday 13th and the staff on Thursday 14th. Thank you also to the teachers who helped to serve.



The lunch allowed everyone to get into the festive spirit, the tables were decorated with crackers and Christmas music was playing.

News from around the school

Ruby Hawkins – Hair Donation

Year 9 student Ruby heard about The Little Princess Trust, an organisation which provides real hair wigs to children who have lost their hair. This may be because of cancer treatment or because of alopecia. Ruby has spent time learning about the Trust and how to donate hair.



On Friday 16th December, in front of a packed crowd in Bader Hall, Ruby had her hair which was in two pigtails cut to be sent away and turned into a wig. She then had her head shaved.

Ruby has been sharing her story and has raised over £1,700, on the day there were further donations from students and parents and she is now hopeful that she will have raised nearly £2,000 – double her initial target of £1,000. Her fundraising page is: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rubywigforchristmas



Penpals

Members of y8 and 9 have been busy writing letters to their penpals in France and Germany. The focus for their first letters has been introducing themselves which has provided the opportunity for them to use what they have learnt in y7 in a real situation. Many thanks to Miss Page for co-ordinating this!



LRC

Patron of Reading launches latest novel

Laura Wood – our very own patron of reading – launched her latest novel Poppy Pym and the Beastly Blizzard at our PTA Christmas Fair this year. Via Twitter Laura said “I had so much festive fun celebrating #PoppyPym and the Beastly Blizzard with @KingEddiesLRC on Friday.”



The final in the series, when a mysterious runaway van crashes into St Smithen's on the first day of the new school year, Poppy knows it's going to be an action-packed term! But when accidents continue to happen at St Smithen's, Poppy can't shake the feeling that her every move is being watched. With the Christmas holidays looming, secrets lurking in every corner and rumours of a dangerous beast on the loose, Poppy must unravel her biggest mystery yet. Can Poppy unmask the hidden spy before someone gets hurt?.

All 4 Poppy Pym books in the series are available in the LRC.

Laura is now working on a new series of books, and will be in school again next year to promote her first Young Adult novel 'A Sky Painted Gold' due for release in July.



News from around the school

German Exchange 2017/2018

Students and German teachers from King Edwards and Chase Terrace, Burntwood met at Birmingham airport on the morning of Saturday 25th November, to start the first part of the exchange – a week in Niederkassel at our partner school, the Kopernikus Gymnasium (see link below). Students were excited, if a little nervous, at the thought of staying with a German family!



We had a comfortable flight to Düsseldorf airport, where we were met by our hosts for the week. Students spent the weekend being entertained by the German families, including trips to the cities of Cologne and Bonn, the theme park Phantasialand and the Lindt chocolate factory (see links below).



Monday was spent in school and in lessons with partners. We were welcomed by the Headteacher Herr Stüber, who is very supportive of exchanges – we even met French students on their exchange to the school in the same week!

On Tuesday we all had breakfast together provided by the German students (Niederkassel must now be short of bread rolls and Nutella!), before setting off for Cologne and a tour of the football stadium (FC Köln).



The afternoon was spent at Cologne cathedral and the Christmas Markets in town. Wednesday and Thursday were spent in school and Friday was spent in Bonn at the “Haus der Geschichte” where we had a tour of a special exhibition “Germans and their cars”. We met at school on Saturday morning to leave for the airport after a really enjoyable week.

The students were a pleasure to be with and a credit to both their schools and we are very much looking forward to the return part of the exchange in March.

S Dunn
Head of MFL.



<http://www.kopernikus-gymnasium.de/home/>

<http://www.germany.travel/en/specials/family-attractions/phantasialand-in-bruehl.html>

<http://www.schokoladenmuseum.de/en/>

Work Experience in France

Bravo to the members of y13 who completed a week of work experience in Limoges in France over October half term! This was a valuable experience in terms of gaining a useful insight into the world of work but also linguistically and personally. To go and work with a group of strangers for a week and in a foreign language is a great confidence booster and will have helped them considerably in their A level French studies. There is still time for those who didn't go to sign up to a similar trip to France or Germany with Halsbury Travel in February half term and at Easter.

Molly at her placement in gift shop.



News from around the school

House Events – Autumn Term

We have had a busy term of House events taking place. Sporting events have seen Boys football, Girls Hockey and a Cross Country event that saw each student in Years 7-9 take part as part of their PE lessons. There was an entertaining House Drama competition in early November and all students have an effect on the overall House competition through their behavior system in school.

Below is a photo of the winning entry in the Y9 Christmas cake decorating competition. They are from Darwin House. The Y9 students are Jessica Redpath and Ellie Jones. The 2 6th form helpers are Theo Fryer and Katie Sonnevile.

There will be further opportunities for House representation in the Spring term with events likely to include a Year 7&8 Ready Steady Cook competition, a House Quiz for Y10 and Y11 and House Rugby and Netball on the sporting front. A big thank you to all the Heads of House, the staff that run the events and the 6th form House prefects who do so much working in supporting these events and giving students the opportunity to take part.

Winning entry in the Y9 Christmas cake decorating competition. They are from Darwin House. The Y9 students are Jessica Redpath and Ellie Jones. The 2 6th form helpers are Theo Fryer and Katie Sonnevile

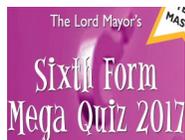


Gifted & Talented

11 year 13 students represented the school in the Lord Mayor's 6th Form Mega Quiz on 28th November at the University of Birmingham. There were 45 teams in total and school's from across the West Midlands entered the quiz.

Team 1 (Molly Brant, Emily Danks, Bobby Newman, Peter Greenwood, Charlotte Blay, Jack Proctor) came 5th overall. They did incredibly well and answered some really challenging questions correctly!

Team 2 (Cameron Twedde, Rosie Farrall, Alex Buck, James Cartwright, Ryan Green) came 14th overall and scored highly on some difficult rounds. Both teams represented KES brilliantly and had a great afternoon at the University.



Geography Department

Owen Miller, a Royal Geographical Society Ambassador came into school to work with year 9 and 12 students. They looked into social capital and its importance and also discussed careers and university courses.



Students enjoyed making social connections between their groups of friends and came up with ways to 'capitalise' on these and improve our local community.

In addition, Year 12 looked into some current research into glacial environments presented by university students and had an interactive session looking into possible careers



and resources to help them with their UCAs applications and personal statements.

News from around the school



Year 8 Accelerated Reader Success

For the first time the school has invested in the Accelerated Reader programme for every Year 8 student. We are pleased to announce that the Word Count for the Year 8 groups now stands at over 23 Million, with 3 students reaching 'Word Millionaire' status already.

We have also seen attitudes to reading progress – with the range and regularity of reading improving.

One student said "I like reading way more now".

Invitations will be going out to parents of students who have made the most progress to attend a celebration event on 9th January 4pm (as part of Year 8 Parents evening).

If you are interested in finding out more about Accelerated Reader and how you can help it continue in our school for Year 8 next academic year, contact Mrs Emery (hemery@kingedwardvi-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk)



We'll collect and chip your Christmas tree from your home or workplace in return for a donation to St Giles Hospice.

From 8th to 12th January 2018
Book early to avoid disappointment!

www.stgileshospice.com/treecycle
treecycle@stgileshospice.com
01543 432538

Register online by **Friday 5th January 2018 12pm.**

We collect from Lichfield, Rugeley, Burntwood, Burton, Sutton Coldfield, Tamworth, Walsall and surrounding areas.
We are unable to chip fake trees.

Payment is regarded as acceptance of the terms and conditions, full terms and conditions can be found at www.stgileshospice.com/christmastree

St Giles Hospice, Fisherwick Road, Whittington, Lichfield, Staffordshire WS14 9LH



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South Staffordshire College **SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE COLLEGE**
Lichfield • Cannock • Tamworth • Rodington



- Taster Days

Mon 19th Feb – Wed 21st Feb.

Free to y10 & y11 students

<http://www.southstaffs.ac.uk/tasterday/>

Courses include –

Photography, Art & Design, Music, Business, Catering, Childcare & Health & Social Care, Motor Vehicle, Public Services, Sport & Sport Science, Engineering, Hair & Beauty, Information Technology, Travel & Tourism, Electrical Engineering, Construction (Brickwork & Carpentry), Animal Care, Construction, Equine - A Non Riding Taster, Vet Nursing, Agriculture, Motor Vehicle, Countryside/Game & Fisheries, Horticulture, Motorsport, Plumbing, Floristry, Land based Technology (Agricultural Engineering)

These days are likely to get full, so please book asap. Register and book your place by speaking to the engagement team on... 0300 456 2424.

Volunteering Opportunity

Due to staffing changes in the Library Resource Centre, an opportunity has arisen for a parent volunteer to support the work done there on a Friday Lunchtime and/or a Monday 11-2pm on a Week 2.

If you enjoy spending time with young people, have good communication skills, are able to multi-task and have basic IT skills, then we would love to hear from you. For an informal chat or further information, email hemery@kingedwardvi-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk in the first instance.

Sports Results

Swimming

Ezra Lambert is current Staffordshire County Champion for the 50m breaststroke and gained silver for the 100m. Ezra will also be swimming in the West Midlands Regional Championships next year.

Charlie Black is currently the county champion for the 100m breaststroke.

Caitlin Kilgallen has qualified for the British Nationals in the 400m freestyle, with the opportunity to make the European squad if she is successful in this competition this half term.

Netball

Niamh Kilgallen gained a place on the Birmingham Wasps U17 squad this year and has been enjoying her training with the super league team. She has also represented King Edward VI in our U19 netball team and played a significant role in a great team performance.

We know there are many more students that take part in a variety of sports outside of school and would love if you would keep us informed of any successes throughout the year at KesPE@kingedwardvi-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk

Rugby Round up

The school teams have had a really positive terms rugby. All players can be really proud of their efforts in regular weekly training and in the numerous matches they have played. There have been block fixtures against Queen Mary's Walsall GS, Rawlett and John Taylor. There have also been block Saturday morning fixtures against Newcastle School, Queen Elizabeth's GS Ashbourne and KEVI Camp Hill. Unfortunately our December Saturday fixtures with St Joseph's Stoke were a victim of the snow and ice.

The highlights for the 1st XV have to be the big cup victory over Walton and the close fought win against John Taylor. The cup

match against Queen Mary's GS Walsall was an outstanding match which ended in a 24-24 draw which unfortunately meant that QM went through as they were the away side. It has been good to see the full mix of Y13, Y12 and Y11 students being part of the 1st XV squad.

The Year 9 team have continued really strongly this year and are in the ¼ final of the Staffs Cup after really convincing victories in the first two rounds.



The Year 8 side have continued their development from last year and can be proud of being Staffordshire Cup Runners up in the competition held at Willenhall rugby Club in October.

The Year 7 are unbeaten in their first few matches for the school. They look like they have the makings of a really strong side that will hopefully develop further over the coming years. The record of results currently reads;



1st XV played 5 matches, won 3, drew 1 and lost 2. The Year 9 side played 8 matches, won 7 and lost 1. The Year 8 side played 5 matches, won 4 and lost 1. The Year 7 side record is played 4 matches won 4 matches.

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