

## From the Headteacher

At the end of a very busy term, this edition of Kespress gives just a few examples of the activities and events taking place alongside timetabled lessons. We also have to deal with the unexpected; please accept my apologies for the late notification of the school closure for Year 8 & 9 on Wednesday 14th December. The leak in the mains pipe for the heating became apparent at lunchtime on Tuesday and we are fortunate that contractors have been able to respond so quickly.

Please take a few moments to familiarise yourself with the Emergency Closure Procedure which can be found on the school [website](#) under Information > Policies and Documents. Closing the school is always a last resort but when this is unavoidable it is important that we act decisively and efficiently. Please also check that your contact details are up-to-date, you should have received a text from the school on Tuesday 14th December. You can send any updates to [studentdetails@kingedwardvi-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:studentdetails@kingedwardvi-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk) or send a note in to school with your son/daughter.

When we return to school on Tuesday 4th January, Year 11 will be starting their trial exams and later in the month Year 9 will begin the options process. Please check the website for upcoming dates and information and Twitter [@keslichfield](#) for recent photos and notifications. In January, parents will also receive a log-in to our Learning Platform which will provide current information for your child including timetable, achievement and behaviour points and access to recent reports. You may have already seen this information via your son/daughter's log-in; we will be developing its use over the coming years to provide more information online.

Later in January the District Council are also starting a six-week programme of work to replace the synthetic pitch surface. Due to ongoing work, the car park adjacent to the astroturf will be out of use. If you need to visit the school during the school day then parking will be limited so please allow a little extra time if you are coming by car. At all other times, vehicles should not be brought on to the school site or up Kings Hill Road; I have spoken to all students in assemblies about being dropped off or picked up a few minutes' walk away. It reduces congestion and supports us in keeping our students safe around school.

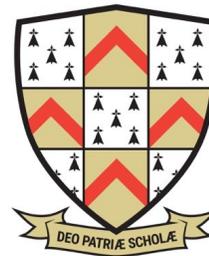
I would like to wish all our students, their families, our staff, governors and members of the wider school community a happy and restful Christmas break. Thank you for your ongoing support. We look forward to seeing what 2017 brings.

Ms J Rutherford



Carol Service

We held our annual Carol Service at Lichfield Cathedral on Tuesday 13 December, attended by hundreds of 600 parents and students as well as the Mayor of Lichfield, Cllr Sheelagh James. A great deal of work goes into this event, organised by Mrs Ellse and the Music Department. A huge well done to all our musicians and readers who took part in service to make it such a success.



KING EDWARD VI  
SCHOOL LICHFIELD

## 2017 Spring Term Dates For Your Diary

### Term Starts

Tuesday 3 January

### February half term holiday

Monday 20 February – Friday 24 February

### Term starts

Monday 27 February – Friday 7 April

### Easter Holidays

Monday 10 April – Friday 21 April

### Internal assessments and examinations

Tuesday 3 January – Friday 13 January: Y11  
Trial Examinations

Monday 3 April to Friday 28 April: Y10  
Examinations

### Parents' Forum Meetings

Wednesday 18 January: GCSE Courses  
Evening (Y9 Parents) - 7pm Bader  
Hall

Wednesday 1 February: Supporting Revision  
(Y10 Parents) - 7pm Bader Hall

### Spring Reports Issued Week Beginning

Monday 13 February: Y9

Monday 20 March: Y7, 10 and 13

Monday 3 April: Y8, 11 and 12

### Parents' Evenings

Tuesday 10 January: Y8

Tuesday 24 January: Y12

Thursday 2 March: Y9

### PTA Events

Wednesday 11 January: PTA Meeting

Friday 10 February: Race Night – 7pm Bader  
Bistro

Wednesday 8 March: PTA Meeting

## Notices

### Attendance update

Attendance figures to 8 December 2016 against our target of 96% are as follows:

Whole school: 95.4%

Years 7-11: 95.0%

Years 12-13: 97.0%

We have an ambitious target for whole school attendance which we work hard to meet. However, if students are ill:

If a student is too ill to attend school, contact should be made via phone or email [attendance@kingedwardvlichfield.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@kingedwardvlichfield.staffs.sch.uk) as early as possible on each day of the absence.

Students who are suffering from diarrhoea and / or sickness should not be in school and should not return to school until they have been clear of symptoms for 48 hours. This will help to prevent the spread of infection.

You can view our full attendance policy on the [website](#) as well as downloading a [Leave of Absence Request Form](#).

It is essential that we receive communication from home regarding any absence to ensure that students receive the correct attendance mark.

Contact: 01543 255714 or [attendance@kingedwardvlichfield.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@kingedwardvlichfield.staffs.sch.uk)

## Around the school

### Update from Senior 5

We have been working hard this term with our duties and further projects. As the Year 13s begin to think about life beyond King Edward School, the Senior 5 have already ordered the leavers' hoodies as well as starting to plan the Year 13 leavers' ball.

Earlier this term we took an active role in managing the raffle for the Christmas Fair where we raised funds for the School Council. We would like to thank everyone who purchased a ticket and contributed to this successful event.

The Senior 5 are excited to introduce the 'International Sporting Honours' board which will be going up in the Bader Bistro. This project aims to recognise hard-working athletes who compete at the highest level in their chosen sport.

Recently, we raised funds and purchased a basketball post for the sixth form area which is available for use by Year 12 and 13 during lunch and break times.

The Senior 5 would like to thank everybody who has helped us with the Open Evenings earlier this term and we look forward to introducing a new prefect team in the coming weeks.

Ben Abell,  
School Captain on behalf of the Senior 5



### Reports – what are the silver stickers for? Ms Rutherford explains...

Each term I look through all the reports before they are sent home to parents. While I don't have time to read all of them in full it does give me a really clear picture of the year group and an understanding of how hard students are working.

For students who come to school every day and work hard, this is reflected in their Attitude to Learning and their Attitude to Independent Learning/Homework grade. For students who are picking up mostly 1s (outstanding) and the rest 2s (good) then students are likely to find a silver sticker on their report. This is a small way to recognise student effort and is just one of the ways that we apply the S, Share in and celebrate success, from our Principles of Learning and Teaching.

There are examples of STRIVE in action throughout Kespress and on a daily basis around school.

#### STRIVE

##### Principles of Learning and Teaching: How We Learn

Share in and celebrate success

*High quality progress and success are recognised by reviewing, identifying and celebrating learning*

Teamwork for environment and achievement

*Our school environment allows everyone to flourish*

Reflect on learning to consider how work is successful and how it can be improved

*Everyone understands that a resilient and resourceful approach can help to improve and develop learning*

Inspire one another to learn and flourish

*Everyone understands the learning aims and their link to prior learning*

Value our school, value ourselves, value the community

*Everyone is willing and able to participate fully*

Equip everyone with skills for life



Senior 5 (l-r): Daniel Slater, Harry Yates, Ben Abell, Saona Tomlinson, Katie Haber

# Around the school

## Notices

### Vacancies

Would you like to join the team at King Edward VI? Check our website for the latest vacancies.

We are currently recruiting for cleaners and lunchtime supervisors. For further details and to apply visit

[www.keslichfield.org.uk](http://www.keslichfield.org.uk).

### Parent governor elections

Following the Parent Governor Elections last term, the successful candidates were Paula Cresswell and Matt Holden.

### Extra-curricular activities

Don't forget to check our weekly bulletin for an up to date schedule of extra-curricular activities.

### ParentPay

Following the changes to our cashless catering system this term, students will no longer be able to have a negative balance on their Parent Pay account. Please ensure your child has adequate funds on their account if you wish them to purchase food in school.

Students are able to check the balance on their Parent Pay cashless catering account on terminals located outside Bader Bistro and Q Block Canteen. We recommend that students do this on a regular basis to ensure they do not try to purchase food for which they do not have the funds.



Guest speaker, Lorna D Sheldon, addresses guests at the Y11 evening



Award winning author and former student, Laura Wood, at the Y13 event

### Presentation evenings mark success of students

Our annual presentation evenings took place this term to celebrate last year's A Level and GCSE students. These were both extremely well attended and it was lovely to see students take such pride in their achievements.

These evenings are a reminder of all the work that is put in throughout the important A Level and GCSE years – not just by our students but by their families and our staff.

For many of our students, it was the first time they had seen one another for several months – we do hope that those attending the events enjoyed them as much as we did.

### Lord Mayor's 6th Form Mega Quiz

Two teams of Y13 students took part in the Lord Mayor's 6th Form Mega Quiz in November at the University of Birmingham.

Students faced challenging questions in a total of 10 rounds, ranging from music, English and the natural world.

In a field of 38 teams from across the West Midlands, Team 2 (Lucy Fryer 1304, Cerys Wilson 1308, Joanna Rafe 1307, Hannah Roberts 1301 and Amy Welch 1307) came an impressive 10th place and Team 1 (Tom Slater 1301, Martin Playle-de Vries 1301, Jamie Fennel 1301, Frances Tallis 1305, Niamh Ollerenshaw 1308 and James Hollis 1301) came 19th. Both teams did a fantastic job of representing the school and answering some very difficult questions – well done!



Team 1: Tom Slater (1301), Martin Playle-de Vries (1301), Jamie Fennel (1301), Frances Tallis (1305), Niamh Ollerenshaw (1308) and James Hollis (1301)



Team 2: Lucy Fryer (1304), Cerys Wilson (1308), Joanna Rafe (1307), Hannah Roberts (1301) and Amy Welch (1307)

## PTA News

### Christmas Fair

The PTA's annual Christmas Fair was a huge success this year, raising more than £2,000.

A huge thank you to all who volunteered and attended the event.

### Race night

The next event for the PTA is the Family Race Night on Friday 10 February – tickets are now available at £2, including a free bet.

Mrs Knight will be serving up a delicious supper, starting from £2, and a licenced bar will be available on the night.

The evening kicks off at 7pm with a 7.30pm start.

Tickets can be purchased through Parent Pay, Bader Reception or reserved by emailing [rslater@kingedwardvlichfield.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:rslater@kingedwardvlichfield.staffs.sch.uk).

### Help raise funds while you shop

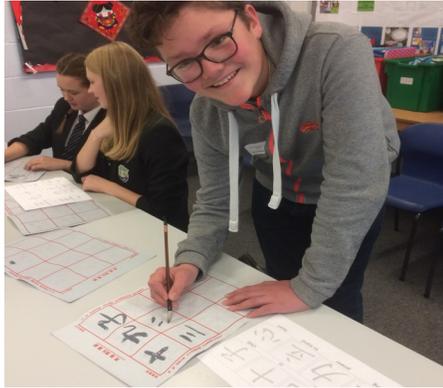
Did you know that you can help our PTA raise funds for the school while you do your online shopping? By registering with [Easyfundraising](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk), each time you shop with a retailer via its website, a small donation is made to our school PTA.

More than 2,700 retailers are signed up with Easyfundraising, including John Lewis, M&S Argos and Lakeland.

Visit [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and type in our name in the 'search for a cause' box. Registering your details only takes a few minutes.

Remember - all money raised by our PTA goes straight back into the school so do please take a few moments to register and support the work of the PTA.

## Around the school



Ewan Whitby Smith doing Chinese calligraphy

### Students take part in Great Language Balloon Debate

A group of Y9 students visited Long Eaton School in Derbyshire to take part in The Great Language Balloon Debate in November.

The event gave students from schools across the region the opportunity to take part in a range of activities to help deepen their understanding of the role of languages in business.

Undergraduates attended the event to talk to students about studying abroad in France, Barcelona and Brazil, offering an insight into the opportunities that studying a language can offer. Students also took part in a debate on the importance of languages in the world of business, as well as enjoying workshops on Spanish or Chinese language taster sessions, Chinese calligraphy and marketing slogans.

The day was an extremely busy but rewarding one. Our students were a credit to our school by displaying model behaviour and engaging actively in all activities.



Languages Club in action

### Modern Language Day at Cambridge University

Y10 students, Caitlin Macintosh and Zahra Rajaratnam, went to Girton College at Cambridge University to take part in a Modern Language Day in October. This is what the girls thought of it:

*"The language taster day taught us a lot about languages at A Level and university. The day also had a main message of breaking down the preconceived idea that languages lead to fewer career options, which is not the case. We learnt about the many career paths which could be taken with a language. As well as this, we had taster sessions of what studying different languages at university was like, these included learning the language but also the culture through literature. One part of the day, which we both really benefited from, was talking to the university students who were all studying different languages and were in different years of their course. This was extremely useful as it really gave us a clearer understanding of what the courses included. We also asked a student to show us what studying a language was like from a more realistic perspective and it allowed us to ask many questions. Overall the day was a really good experience, which really helped introduce languages at A Level or even university as a future option."*

Thank you for taking part, Zahra and Caitlin, and we wish you every success in your language learning!

### Languages Club

It's been a busy term for Languages Club. Students have entered a Christmas Card Design Competition, baked Lebkuchen and have written their first postcards to their penpals at Gymnasium Adolfinum, a school in north Germany.

Lots more activities planned for next term - keep an eye on the notice board outside room 23 and ***mach doch mit!!***

# Christmas at King Edward VI

## LRC News

### Behind many great films, there's often a great book!

Ms Smith at Eckington School Library has put together a list of TV on over the Christmas holidays – all with a literary link. This is available to download and print from the [website](#). If any films leave you feeling inspired to read the book, then make sure you pop into LRC!

### Excelsior Award

The Excelsior Award is the only nationwide book award for graphic novels and manga where people aged 11-16 decide the winner by rating each book as they read it.

We've invited some students to be part of the process here and they, along with others who want to be involved, will form a followers group. They will review the shortlist of eight graphic novels – made available for loan through the library – with a simple rating form handed out with each loan and returned with the book to the library. We are then able to work out who has read the most titles and what our favourite titles are, before sending these off to the nationwide award.

The awards attract participation from over 250 schools and public libraries from all over the UK and Ireland. The scheme highlights amazing books – so get involved!

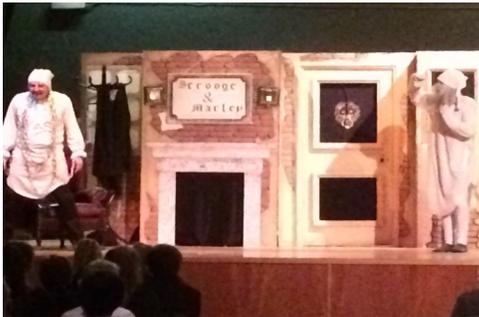
### Patron of Reading

We are delighted to announce that children's author and former student, Laura Wood, has agreed to be our Patron of Reading for a second year.

Laura, who was named the winner of the 2014 Montegrappa Scholastic Prize for New Children's Writing, had her debut novel, Poppy Pym and the Pharaoh's Curse, published last year. The Patron of Reading is part of an initiative to support our literacy work and to encourage students' reading.

*"Sometimes, you read a book and it fills you with this weird evangelical zeal, and you become convinced that the shattered world will never be put back together unless and until all living humans read the book."*

John Green, The Fault in Our Stars



A Christmas Carol

### Festive fun ends term

The last few days of term have been packed with visits and events throughout the school.

Ginificent Productions visited the school on Monday to perform A Christmas Carol for our Y7 and Y11 students. As well as a breathtaking performance, the session also included a Q&A after the play.

The Student Christmas Lunch was, yet again, a huge hit - a big thank you to our catering team, ably assisted by Mr Shaw and Mr Hayward!

Our Y7 and Y8 drama students will be ending the term by visiting Darwin Court Care Home to perform for the residents.

Finally, look out for photos on our Twitter feed and on the web of the annual Sixth Form trolley dash on the last day of term!



The team ready for action



Natasha Pullen with Y9 students Tom Abbott and Angel Woodhall- Jones

### KES Staff Band Returns for Tour

The KES Staff Band returned for their 2016 Christmas Assembly Tour, performing a festive favourite during the final year assemblies of term.

Mrs Bryan and Mrs Dunn led the vocals, with the band made up of Mr Goodhead, Mr Cotton, Mr Greenhalgh and Mr Jamieson.

A brilliant way to end the final year assemblies of 2016 - here's hoping they return to the stage in 2017!



Returning for 2016—KES Staff Band

### Christmas Charity Appeal

We were delighted by the huge response to our Christmas 2016 Charity Appeal.

We worked with local councillor, Natasha Pullen, to distribute gifts to local women's refuge organisations: Staffordshire Women's Aid, Pathway Project and Caldmore in Walsall. These organisations work to support adults, young people and children who are experiencing or affected by domestic abuse.

Some 70 children and 75 parents in total will be receiving gifts this year – many will have arrived at the refuge with just the clothes they had when they left their family home. The gifts our students and families brought into school will, we hope, go a little way to helping them enjoy the Christmas period.

# Sports Results

## KES in pictures

### Netball

U19 Netball team - County Champions and will represent the West Midlands finals in January.  
 U16 – 3<sup>rd</sup> in County Tournaments  
 Y10 v Kingsmead 20-13 (W)  
 Y8 v Landau Forte 13-13 (D)  
 Y9 v Landau Forte 21-7 (W)  
 Y7 v Erasmus Darwin 22-1 (W)  
 Y7a v Hart school Y8/9 8-4 (L)  
 Y7b v Hart school 2-2 (D)

### Rugby

1<sup>st</sup> XV v Camp Hill 32-7 (L)  
 1st XV v St Joseph's 43 24 (W)  
 Y10 v Cathedral School 28 -7 (W)  
 Y9/10 v Camp Hill 34-10 (L)  
 Y9/10 v St Joseph's 52 7 (L)  
 Y8 v St Joseph's 20 10 (W)  
 Y8 v Camp Hill 26-15 (W)  
 Y7 v St Joseph's 10 15 (L)  
 Y7 v Cathedral School 45-35 (W)  
 Y7 v Camp Hill 7-7 (D)



Autumn Term: Played 16, Won 16, Draw 1, Lost 12

### Hockey

U16 – Midlands U16 finals: lost to Wellingborough school and Bromsgrove school. Drew with King Edward Edgbaston and Rugby school.  
 U13 v Newcastle School 2-1 (L)  
 Y7 friendly v Kingsmead D and W

### Football

Y10 Boys – Div 1 Champions having P 5, W4 and D1  
 Y9 Boys – Div 2 Joint Champions P5, W4 and D1.

### Basketball

Y10 v Cardinal Griffin 80-26 (W)

### Cross Country

Well done to all our students representing Staffordshire in cross country in November.



Y12 Btec Performing Arts group in a Brechtian production of 'Our Country Good' by Timberlake Wertenbaker for family and friends.



A reminder of how stunning our school grounds are – Bader fields at sunrise



The subject of the Guess the Name of the Teddy competition helping out at Bader Reception before the Christmas Fair



Winners of Y9 House Cake Decorating Competition, Clinton House. Judges Ms Rutherford and Mr Shaw had a tough job choosing the winner.

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