

KESPRESS

July 2017

Summer update

At the end of a long and busy year, when school closes for students on Friday we will be saying farewell to a number of staff. Mr Clarke (Physics), Mrs Ellse (Head of Music) and Mrs Pomlett (Senior Teaching Assistant) are retiring; they have all given long service to the school and worked hard to support our students. Mrs Delves (MFL), Mr Murray (History and Assistant Achievement leader for Year 12 & 13) and Mrs Kaur (ICT & Computing) are moving on to new schools and Mrs Williams (Drama) will be taking up a Head of Department post. Mrs Woodward (Maths) is moving further afield to France. I would like to thank all staff for their service to the school and we wish all colleagues and students leaving the school well.

It seems that staff and students are still ready to challenge themselves over the holiday. We have two groups embarking on a World Challenge expedition to India with Miss Thomas and Dr Squire this month. Mrs Butler will be playing for the England Over 45s hockey team over the summer in the European Championships in Holland; we wish her luck. Towards the end of the summer our students will be setting out on their Gold Duke of Edinburgh expedition.

This edition of Kespress gives a few highlights of recent events and projects alongside some key information for the new term. Please check the school website www.keslichfield.org.uk for the school holiday dates for the year; terms do not all finish on a Friday in 2017/18.

Have a restful summer,

Jane Rutherford, Headteacher

Bushcraft, Meerkats, Art Challenge, Climbing Wall ... just a few highlights from last week

Thank you to all students and staff who made our Curriculum Enhancement Day such a success.



KING EDWARD VI
SCHOOL LICHFIELD

2017 Autumn Term Diary Dates

Training day for staff

Mon 4 Sept & Tues 5 Sept

Term starts for students

Wed 6 Sept

Training day for staff

Fri 20 Oct

October half term holiday

Mon 23 — Fri 27 Oct

Training day for staff

Fri 1 Dec

Term ends

Tues 19 Dec at 1pm

Some other key dates

Open evening

Wed 27 Sep (School closes at 2.35pm)

Presentation evenings

Fri 10 Nov (former Y13)

Wed 22 Nov (former Y11)

Parents' evenings

Wed 13 Sept - Y10 Information Evening

Tue 19 September - Y12 UCAS evening

Wed 20 September—Y7 Tutor Evening

Tue 10 October—Y13 Parents' Evening

PTA meetings and events

AGM - Wed 20 Sept 7pm

PTA meeting - Tue 10 October

Christmas Fayre - Fri 24 Nov

School updates

Anti-bullying



Our sixth-form anti-bullying team gave a fantastic presentation to parents earlier in the term, explaining the work we do to prevent and deal with issues of bullying. A number of students from lower school entered our anti-bullying poster completion. After some difficult deliberations, the sixth-form team chose

Francesca Pegg's poster as the best. Francesca received a £10 gift voucher plus a skip-the-queue lunch pass for the Autumn term. Thanks again to all those who took part. We will be displaying the winning entry around school as part of our work to raise awareness about bullying issues and how to get help.



We would ask that parents take a few minutes to complete a short survey on bullying which will help us understand where to focus our efforts for the coming year. Find it by clicking <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WHNCS6D>

Uniform

To assist parents and carers in ensuring students have the correct uniform for September, we have updated our guidance on the school [website](#). We would draw your attention to a handful of updates that we have been sharing with students in assemblies:

- Optional plain black V-neck knitted jumper (with or without school badge) – we no longer accept grey jumpers or any form of cardigan.
- Boys shoes – Plain black shoes (not sports trainers, canvas shoes, mesh material or shoes with obvious logos/emblems).
- Girls shoes – Plain black shoes (not sports trainers or canvas shoes, mesh material or shoes with obvious logos/emblems. Shoes with high heels should not be worn).
- King Edward VI School Skirt or plain black tailored trousers (without zips/writing/studs) – following consultation with students we have added a third type of skirt to be supplied by our two official suppliers.



We have also added some further guidance as to our expectations for how uniform should be worn:

- Blazers should be worn before and after school, during lessons, between lessons, and at social times. Teachers may give specific permission within a lesson for blazers to be removed, but they should be replaced before the end of the lesson.

- Blazers are optional during the summer term, but must be worn for assemblies and exams. No other item is to be worn over the summer polo shirt e.g. jumper.
- Blazer/jumper sleeves should not be rolled up.
- Skirts should always be worn at an appropriate length, no more than 5 cm above the knee, and not rolled up at the top.
- Shirts should remain tucked in at all times (the summer polo shirt does not need to be tucked in).
- Coats (worn when the weather is poor) must be worn on top of the blazer, and not used as an alternative to the blazer.
- The black V-neck jumper is optional, but may not be worn as an alternative to the blazer.

Should you have any questions about uniform, please contact the school and we will be happy to advise.

Achievement and behaviour points

Over the course of the year, a significant number of students were awarded enough achievement points to earn a place on our rewards trip to Alton Towers. We hope to see even more students achieving the target in the coming year in recognition of their efforts to make a positive contribution to the life of the school, whilst working hard to achieve all that they can in every subject area.



Students who repeatedly lose behaviour points can expect to have contact made with home in order to engage the support of parents/carers in a joint effort to bring about positive change for such students. We will continue to use detentions, reports and isolation when and where appropriate. Depending on the nature of the behaviour, isolation may take one of three forms:

- Isolation during school day – student in isolation for lessons and social times – used for serious one-off breaches of school rules, or behaviour over time that is disruptive to learning and/or constitutes rudeness to members of staff
- Isolation during social times – usually used when out of lesson behaviour is the main concern
- Isolation after school – student is collected at the end of P5 each day for up to four days to spend one hour in isolation – used for behaviour that is not directly disruptive to learning e.g. homework issues.

Detentions

Students have been informed that if a detention is missed, they will be placed in a higher level of detention. For example, missing a department detention (level 3) will result in a senior staff detention (level 5) and so on. Our intention is to have students take responsibility for their actions and associated consequences. Students and parents can check behaviour points and detentions on [SWITCH](#).

School updates

Building Fund Appeal Update

Thank you for your continued support of our fundraising. The recent Summer Festival raised over £3,000 between the Trust Fund and the PTA. Wristbands sales added close to £1,500 to our total which currently stands at £10,048 to which we will add the contributions from our non-uniform day at the end of term. The total came from non-uniform days (£3,200), Summer festival (£1,500) and over £5,300 in one-off donations or monthly donations.

Over the summer we will be repainting Drama and English classrooms, replacing classroom furniture (£5,000) and putting up student noticeboards (£800) around the site. These will provide important information and advice for students in need of support with school or personal issues; in a big school it is important that students don't need to look too far to find help. This suggestion came from our students and we will be working with them to make sure that advice on anti-bullying and other support on offer is up to date. Our site team will be working hard to do repairs to fencing, maintain the grounds and support various contractors on site. We are having some work done to replace leaking gutters in Johnson buildings which will allow us to do some further decoration outside the library to restore an essential part of the building.

We are currently in discussion about some further changes to the school site with the Local Authority linked to additional school places in Lichfield. I will provide you with an update in the autumn term.

School meals

As you are probably aware, we have taken catering in-house this year; Mrs Knight and her team have been working tirelessly to ensure that the students have access to fresh, locally sourced produce and high quality meals. As well as working with external consultants to ensure that we meet nutritional guidelines, Mrs Knight has been working with students to gather feedback and diversify the menu. The summer term has seen a rise in salads on sale and in the autumn we will be running sessions for parents of diabetic students to support their children's meal choices.

We have tried to keep prices stable and reduce costs where possible for individual items. We do need to make an adjustment to the price for a Meal Deal as this has been at £2.20 for over five years. In September 2017 a Meal Deal will increase to £2.35; this includes a hot meal and a dessert which still represent excellent value for money. Students entitled to free school meals will still be able to have a meal deal each day if they wish.

We encourage parents who think their child may be eligible for free school meals to let us know and submit an application. Students can use their daily allowance at lunchtime or break time via the cashless catering service.

Attendance

Attendance figures up to 9 July against our target of 96% are as follows:

Whole school*	95.7%
Years 7-11*	95.1%
Years 12-13	97.4%

*Please note that due to Year 11 study leave these figures include Year 11 data to 12/05/2017.

Our [Attendance Policy](#) has been updated and is now available to view, together with our [Attendance Matters Leaflet](#).

- Too ill to attend?
 - * A parent/carer should text school on 07860 034183 before 9.15am on the first day of absence with student name, tutor group and a brief reason for the absence.
- Marked as absent without a reason?
 - * A text will be sent home, please respond via text with a reason for the absence as a matter of urgency so that we know that your child is safe.
- Proof of illness requested?
 - * This may happen for extended periods of absence or where a student's attendance is less than 90%.
- Suffering from sickness and/or diarrhoea?
 - * Students should not return until 48 hrs from last episode.
- Routine medical and dental appointments?
 - * Should be made outside of school hours.
 - * For unavoidable appointments to be authorised, a written note signed by a parent/carer together with an appointment card/letter will be required.
 - * Students should only be out of school for the minimum amount of time necessary for the appointment, a full day's absence will not normally be authorised.
 - * Please give warning in advance via text on 07860 034183.
- Late?
 - * A late mark (L) will be applied to students who arrive in a morning after 8.55am but before registration finishes at 9.15am or after 1.35pm for the afternoon session.
 - * Students arriving after 9.15am without a valid reason supplied by parents/carers (preferably in writing) will receive an unauthorised absence mark. They must sign in at Bader Reception.
- Leave of Absence?
 - * Any leave of absence, including funerals, religious observance and sporting fixtures must be applied for by the parent/carer with whom the student normally resides on a [Leave of Absence Form](#) as far in advance as possible, for consideration by the Headteacher.

The policy applies to all students, including those in Sixth Form.

If a student has to leave site for any reason, a note must be brought into school, signed and dated by their form tutor, before signing out with the note at Bader Reception. Students must not leave the premises without the permission of the school. If you are at all concerned about your child's attendance and would like to discuss it further, please get in touch.

School updates

From the PTA

Summer festival

Mrs Knight and her team, along with the PTA, put on food and refreshments for the event, which raised more than £1,500 to support the school via PTA Funds alongside over £800 raised via the raffle. The event raised over £3000 in total, with wristband sales going towards the School Trust Fund; thank you for your support.

Waitrose Community Matters Fund

During June, we were one of three charities to share £1,000 from the Waitrose Community Matters Fund. We received £220 – thank you Waitrose and all those shoppers who placed a token in our box!

Your School Lottery

We're excited to announce the start of Your School Lottery, a new initiative in September which will raise money for the school, as well as giving supporters the chance to win cash prizes. Your School Lottery lets you support the school directly. You can join for as little as £1 per week and will have the chance of winning a guaranteed weekly prize for someone within the school community. The more people that participate, the bigger this guaranteed prize becomes and the more money raised for our school. You will also be entered into a separate weekly draw with a chance to win £25,000. Look out for more details in the new school year.

Help us raise money while you shop!

Help us support the Building Fund Appeal which aims to raise £100,000 by 2018 for much-needed building maintenance and improvement work around the school site by registering via www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/kingedwardlichfield/ – more than 2,000 high street retailers are on Easyfundraising. Whenever you make a purchase via the site, the retailer donates to the PTA. This easy way to help us raise funds has the potential to raise significant funds for the school. The testimonial below is from one of our parents:

Hi my name is Helen. My son is in Y8 at King Edward & my daughter will be joining the school in September 2017. I'm helping King Edward VI PTA Lichfield to raise money whenever I shop online - could you do the same? Since registering with www.easyfundraising.org.uk in January 2010, I have now raised over £960 (£700 for St. Michael's until September 2015 then another £260+ for KEVI since then) simply by going through the website to visit my favourite online shops, travel agents, car hire & insurance providers. It's not cost me a penny as the donations come from the retailers! There are particularly big donations to be earned when you book flights, holidays & car hire. The comparison websites also provide decent contributions when you buy insurance through them.

Get involved

Joining the PTA is a great way to get to know some parents and learn

more about what is happening at school.

We're always keen to see new parents at the meetings. If you're unable to make the meetings but would like to help out, either on a one-off or regular basis, we'd love to hear from you. Any suggestions, ideas or questions can be sent to kingedwardspta@gmail.com. If you have a particular skill or company that you think could help the PTA, please do let us know.

The PTA committee currently comprises a dedicated team of parents and staff and our future is very much dependent upon us keeping the flow of new members coming through as parents step down when their children leave the school. If you feel you want to get involved, please email us or come along to a meeting.

From the Senior 5

After a term with external and mock exams, I think I speak on behalf of Year 12 when saying that we are looking forward to a well-deserved break! We are also excited for the Sixth Form end of year BBQ, where we will also be holding a basketball competition for the Sixth Formers.

Next year we will be welcoming many fresh faces into Year 12, Year 7 and across the school, and we look forward to working with them as possible prefects and members of the year and school council. We will also be taking on new challenges with enthusiasm, such as organising the Christmas Raffle, appearing at the Samuel Johnson birthday celebrations and organising leavers' events.

If you have any questions or suggestions, feel free to email the Senior Five at senior5@kingedwardvi-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk

I hope you all have a relaxing summer break ready to get back to work in September!

Emily Danks

School Captain



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

News from around the school

Summer festival

The first ever King Edward VI School Summer Festival took place on Thursday 29 June. Despite the weather, a great time was had by all with many students and parents showing their support.

Highlights included musical performances, a sculpture trail, performance extracts from the musical Matilda, art exhibition and live workshops, a book reading by Laura Wood and poetry performances by the Staffordshire Young Poet Laureate. Mrs Knight and her team, along with the PTA, put on food and refreshments with the event raising more than £3,000 to support the school via PTA Funds and the School Trust Fund. A huge thank you to all those involved, particularly the students who took part in the various shows and exhibitions.



Saxon Hill Science lessons

Our students have been working with students from Saxon Hill throughout the year on science lessons. From heart dissection to finding invertebrates (creepy crawlies) in rotting leaves; whatever the topic it's been well received by all. A huge thank you to all the staff and students.



News from around the school

Gifted and talented trip

Y8 Gifted and Talented students visited the University of Wolverhampton to gain an insight into higher education and see first-hand what a University campus is like. Students were given a tour of the University, had presentations from Post Grad Students and got to grips with the terminology associated with reading a subject at University by playing the game 'Uni Go'. The pupils enjoyed the experience and represented the school brilliantly.



Art trip to Chatsworth

47 GCSE Art students visited the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire's stately home, Chatsworth House, in June. The Estate has stunning gardens featuring a maze. However, for me, the most beautiful artwork was the building itself, with many lavish rooms designed with infinite attention to detail, making it a pleasure to explore. Not only that but the rooms were decorated with spectacular paintings and sculptures, including work by Freud, a renowned artist. Also displayed was an exhibition on fashion containing "5 centuries worth of style". During this time we tried to find what interested us to add to the work we have already done on the theme 'Significance.' We were aided greatly by the house's staff and our own teachers to find something we truly felt passionate about. Thanks to this support we gained a greater appreciation for art from the experience at Chatsworth.

Ursula Mennear, year 10



MFL Trip to Aston University

Some members of Y10 recently visited Aston University for a conference about the value of languages and some taster lectures in French and German. Students learnt about the role of languages in an increasingly internationally connected working world, both linguistically and in terms of the cultural knowledge which learning languages brings. They had taster lectures held in French and German and we were very proud of them for volunteering answers, especially when most of the other participants there were in Y12! The day was rounded off with some sessions in Japanese and Chinese which gave them the chance to learn some basic phrases in a new language and increase their knowledge of these countries. They were truly global citizens!

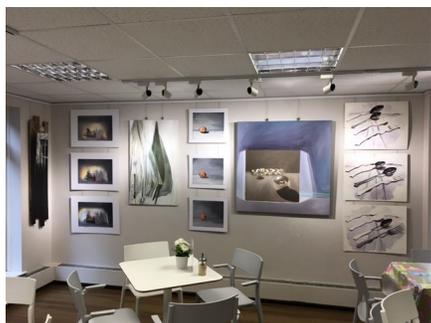
Italian taster

Buongiorno! One of our language classrooms resounded to the sound of Italian earlier this term in a taster session for some Y7 students. As well as trying some Italian food (it was a 'taster' session in all aspects of the word!) pupils looked at how to spot links between languages. Feedback from students was overwhelmingly positive which means that it is already being put on the calendar for next year.

Thank you to Mrs Taylor and Mrs Timores for organising this and to the Y7 students who attended for their enthusiasm and participation.

Y13 art exhibition in Shenstone Library

Y13 art students will have an art exhibition on display at Shenstone Library throughout the summer holidays. The display will be available to view on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.



News from around the school

Welcoming visitors from France

Y12 French students class will be welcoming their exchange partners to Lichfield this July. Having visited the Limousin area of France at Easter (Staffordshire's twin region), it is now their turn to play host. Visitors will take part in a mixture of activities such as experiencing life in an English school and going on cultural visits and we hope they will enjoy their stay with us. Thank you as ever to the host families for making this possible.



Iceland Trip

Y10 geography students have just returned from a five day adventure around Iceland. The aim of the trip was to experience the geography they have been discussing in the classroom, in real life. Seeing a photograph of a volcano is not quite the same as climbing a real one - and using its heat to toast a sandwich at the top!

Students spent the week climbing volcanoes, bathing in geothermal pools and walking on glaciers. They were a credit to the school. Follow [@KEVlgeography](#) for more pictures and information on all our geography trips.



Y12 post-18 option trip

Year 12 have been exploring their post-18 options with two trips recently. At the start of June, students visited the UCAS Higher Education Conference where they found out about the UCAS process, apprenticeships, careers in the services and attended lectures on applying for courses, writing a personal statement and many more areas. The students also enjoyed collecting many of the free gifts that stallholders were giving out. At the end of the June the Sixth Form also had the opportunity to visit a Russell Group university, the University of Birmingham. The university ran an extensive programme of talks so students could try out different subject areas and think about their course choices. The university has just opened its new library and state of the art sports centre that is planned to be used as part of the

Commonwealth Games and many students said how impressed they were with these new facilities.



Hamlet trip

Year 12 Literature students travelled to London with Mrs Bailiss and Mrs Murray to see a performance of Hamlet in the West End. The feedback was superb (we had one student moved to tears!) and staff were delighted to feed back that it was an absolute pleasure to spend the day with them, despite the cancelled train from Euston and the slightly squashed homeward journey.



Geography Club students enjoying the sunshine

Sports Results

Athletics

The following pupils represented Cannock and District at the Staffordshire Inter District Championships held on 28 June at Tamworth Stadium, they were successful in their events and will now go on to represent Staffordshire.



Jasper Dale	Emily Pearce
Lily Williams	Sian Duval
Niamh Kilgallen	Bo Ryder
Lucy Semple	



Cricket

Both the Y7 and Y8 teams won the district 6 aside cricket tournament this term.

Rounders

The following year 7 girls represented the school in the District Rounders tournament, they won all games and became District winners after beating Friary 7-4 in the final. Their commitment to training has been superb, well done!

Imogen Mulligan	Amber Edwards
Evie Shaw	Martha Berry
Lily Williams	Mimi Akroum
Jess Henstock	Emily Pearce
Grace Jetson	Ellie Hartley

Other age groups

Y8 – Runners up
Y9 – Runners up
Y10 – Runners up

Netball

The following girls represented the school and the District in the Staffordshire School games on Friday 23 June at Keele University.

Cardinal Griffin – 5 -0 (W)
St Josephs – 3 – 5 (L)
Rawlett 5-1 (W)
Moorside – won 3-1 (W)
Newcastle won 3-1 (W)



They played St Josephs in the final losing 4 goals to 2



Mimi Akroum
Natasha Gilbert
Grace Jetson
Emily Pearce
Brooke Sutton

Amber Edwards
Finny Harris
Imogen Mulligan
Shannon Roe
Robyn Tonks

Lily Williams

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