

## March Update

It's been an unusual start to Spring; thank you for bearing with us during the recent bad weather. It is always a difficult decision in balancing the need to provide daily education against potential concerns about travel and safety. There is never a decision which will satisfy everyone and indeed there is often huge variation in circumstances due to transport and home location. We do seek to promote resilience in our students so your support in getting them to school with a few extra layers has been much appreciated. Having said that, issues with delayed trains, buses or safety concerns over driving all require parental discretion which you need to apply when necessary, even when the school remains open.

## School Communication



Many thanks to those parents who have been in touch and let us know their updated details for email and text messaging. We would like to encourage parents to download the **Groupcall Xpressions app**. This has the advantage that all school messages can be stored in one place. There are some messages such as absence alerts which we will continue to send as text messages, however other messages such as information about activities in school we would send as an Xpressions message.

The free app can be found in both the iOS App store and the Google Play android store. Xpressions works using your email address and mobile number; the same ones you supplied to the school. You will use these to sign into Xpressions.

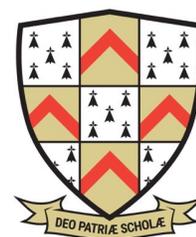
If you have not supplied the school a current email address and mobile number, you cannot use the Xpressions app – contact the school to update these. You can update your details by emailing: [studentdetails@kingedwardvi-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:studentdetails@kingedwardvi-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk)

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](mailto:office@kingedwardvi-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk) and [8604087@groupcallalert.com](mailto:8604087@groupcallalert.com) to your email address book this can help messages to be received and not sent to spam or junk email boxes.

It is also always worth checking the school website or Switch as there information is available here for parents. A guide to the Switch Learning Platform can be found at: [http://www.keslichfield.org.uk/?page\\_id=6989](http://www.keslichfield.org.uk/?page_id=6989)

## Physics success for King Edward VI students

Y13 King Edward VI Physics students Emily Danks, Cameron Tweddle and James Cartwright recently entered the prestigious British Physics Olympiad (BPhO) competition attaining some great results. The competition is designed to stretch and challenge the top young Physicists in the country in a National competition with extremely demanding questions and over 1740 students entering this year. The students performed fantastically well with Emily Danks achieving a Silver award, Cameron Tweddle a Bronze II and James Cartwright a Commendation. It was a brilliant performance by all 3 students and they should also be commended on the effort that they put in preparing for it. I would also like to thank the efforts of the other members of staff of the Physics department, Mr Wall, Mrs Bryant and the recently retired Mr Clarke. Mr Mills, Head of Physics



KING EDWARD VI  
SCHOOL LICHFIELD

## 2018 Spring Term

### Diary Dates

Term ends on Thursday 29th  
March at 3.35pm

### Easter Holiday

Fri 30th Mar — Wed 11th Apr

### Other key dates

Mon 16th Apr — Fri 27th Apr  
Y10 Practice Examinations

Thurs 15th March—Spring  
Concert—7pm in Bader Hall

### Parents' evenings

Thurs 8th March — Year 9

Thurs 19th April — Year 7

Thurs 24th May — Year 10

### PTA meetings and events

Tues 6th March — PTA  
Meeting — 7pm Bader Bistro

Fri 9th March — Quiz Night —  
7pm Bader Hall

# School updates

## PTA

Following a successful Christmas Fayre, the PTA are delighted to have now **committed £2,000** towards the cost of a **new PA sound system in Bader Hall** (approximate cost £8,000). Fundraising towards this continues.



The next full meeting of the PTA is on **Tuesday 6th March at 7 pm in Bader Bistro**; all welcome. We also have a **Quiz night on Friday 9th March at 7 pm** (see poster). We would love to see as many of you as possible at this fun adult social evening – money raised will go towards the new PA sound system.

As you are aware, the PTA have **launched a lottery** in partnership with **Your School Lottery**. This is proving very successful - if you haven't already, over the half term holiday, why not sign up to this great new fund-raising initiative – it only takes a minute to register. It costs **£1 a week** and you get chance to **win at least £20** in a weekly draw as well as being entered into a weekly draw for **£25,000!** Why not ask friends and family if they'd like to support us too! To find out more go to

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/king-edward-vi>

## Senior 5

This last term has been quiet, however the term to come will be an interesting one!

Orders for leaver's hoodies for Year 13s are now being taken. If you haven't yet received a hoodie slip and wish to order a hoodie, your tutors will have slips spare, and there are posters in the Sixth Form block displaying the colour options.

We have recently created a committee for the Year 13 Leaver's Ball, which will be held toward the end of the school year. Progress is currently being made on the preparation of the Ball, and we encourage Year 13s to come forward and suggest any ideas you may have to a Ball Committee member, or any of the Senior 5.

The new group of Year 12 prefects have settled very easily into their roles since adopting their roles completely as of

Christmas, and have all gained their prefect badges as a result. The staff and the rest of the Senior Five all agree that our new prefects are exceptional, and thank them for their role in the school.

The time has come to prepare to hand over the baton to a new Senior Five team. Soon after the half term break, on the 5th March, we will be holding the Senior Five hustings, and will begin consideration of suitable Senior Five candidates. We encourage all prefects interested to apply, and hope to see you on the stage!

If you have any questions or suggestions, feel free to contact us on [senior5@kingedward-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:senior5@kingedward-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk). We hope you all had a good Christmas, and wish you the best this year.

Bobby Newman (Deputy Head Boy) on behalf of the Senior Five



# School updates

## Attendance Update

Attendance figures to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018 against our target of 96% are as follows:

Whole school:	95.1%
Years 7-11*:	95.2%
Years 12-13:	94.3%

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 and lateness. This can be found at <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/welfareservice/Attendance/Code-of-Conduct-From-1.1.2018.pdf>.

The key changes are as follows:

- Any period of unauthorised leave due to holiday (G code) may result in parents/carers receiving a penalty notice fine.
- Parents/carers of any student with 10 or more days unauthorised absence for reasons other than holiday (O code) over a 12-week period may receive a penalty notice warning which may result in a fine.
- If a student has 10 unauthorised late marks (U code) over a 12-week period, their parents/carers may receive a penalty warning notice which may lead to a fine.

In the light of these revisions our Attendance Policy and Leave of Absence documentation has been updated and these are available on the Attendance page of the school website which can be found under the Information tab or by using the "report a student absence" link.

### **Attendance Matters Leaflet:**

The school's Attendance Matters leaflet is available on the Attendance page of the school website, please note the updated contact telephone number for the Local Support Team.

### **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. This should be sent to:

[office@kingedwardvi-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@kingedwardvi-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk) . NB. for all other attendance communication please text on 07860 034183 (this number does not accept attachments, please use [attendance@kingedwardvi-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@kingedwardvi-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk) if you need to send an attachment).

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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.*

Please send any comments/feedback to:

[attendance@kingedwardvi-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@kingedwardvi-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk)

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## Revision Information

As students in many years approach external and internal exams revision is key topic of concern for many. The recent Year 10 revision evening shared some approaches with parents about how to prepare for exams and support students at this time.

The information from the evening can be found on the school website: [http://www.keslichfield.org.uk/?page\\_id=1762](http://www.keslichfield.org.uk/?page_id=1762)

Parents may also find the following articles interesting, they give advice on how to support teenagers and techniques to help with revision:

<https://www.theguardian.com/teacher-network/2016/apr/19/students-revise-exams-revision-science>

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2016/apr/23/how-to-help-your-teenagers-revise-for-exams>

# News from around the school

## Holocaust Memorial Day



Holocaust Memorial Day webcast on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> Jan All Y11, Y12 and Y13 history students watched the Holocaust survivor testimony by Janine Webber with more than 40,000 students from across the UK. Students had a rare opportunity to listen to her experiences of the Nazi occupation in Poland and her struggle for survival as a Jewish girl at this time. Thanks are due to Mrs. Gilmore for organising the event and to Mrs Emery for facilitating it.

## **'Be Our Guest!'** A Performing Arts Visit to Darwin Court

On January 25<sup>th</sup> a group of very talented students went to Darwin Court Care Home to perform a variety show to the elderly residents.

Rauf Ergin and Sammy and Becky Stanley performed a range of Musical theatre songs such as 'Be our Guest' from Beauty and the Beast, 'Honey Honey' from Mama Mia, 'Hopelessly Devoted' from Grease and 'Maybe' from Annie. Liv Thornton, Aaron Cussack and Jack Miles played excerpts for piano and Rosa Clark played 'Edelweiss' and 'Somewhere over the Rainbow' on the clarinet. Eloise Bisset and Amber Froud were brilliant in their close harmony singing. Emily Glasgow sang beautifully and had everyone captivated and we were supported technically by Faye Stockley and Saffron Pearson-Pearmain. We also wowed them with our dance with Naomi Arden, Tilly Southall, Jessie Redpath, Emily Bullock and Bo Ryder dancing to Ed Sheerans' Galway Girl and Avicii's 'Hey Brother' and Kadie O'Donnell and Leah Woodhall-Jones performed a dance duet to 'Know no Better'.

We all had a great time with the residents singing along with us and we were eagerly asked to perform there again very soon.

We are so excited in the LRC because the **Excelsior Awards** are coming.

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! It was previously known as the **Stan Lee Excelsior Award**, named after Stan Lee who is widely credited to be the Godfather of Modern Comics. Although the awards no longer use his name this literacy scheme is dedicated to his spirit and his creativity.



How the **Excelsior Award** will work at King Edward VI School is that anyone who wants to be involved can join the followers group. The shortlist of eight graphic novels are available for loan through the library. A simple rating form is handed out with each loan and this is returned with the book to the library. From these forms we are able to work out who has read the most titles, what the schools favorite titles are, then we send them off to the nationwide award and follow the results. The **final deadline** for the return of ALL Rating Forms will be 20<sup>th</sup> April.

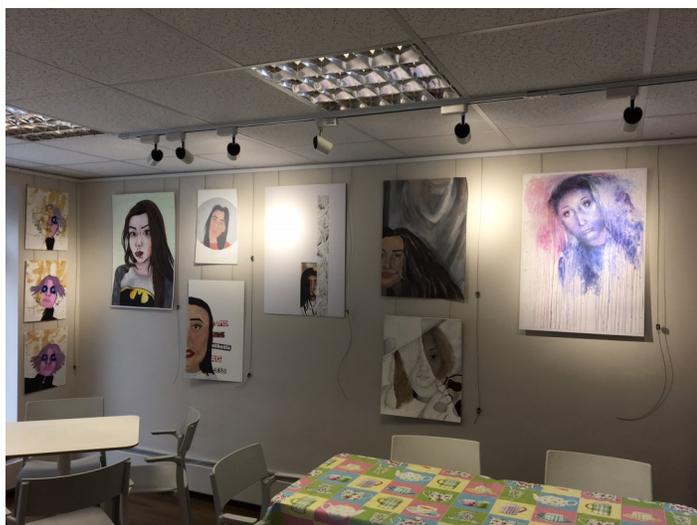
The awards attract participation from over two hundred and fifty schools and public libraries from all over the UK and Ireland! The scheme highlights amazing books that are really enjoyed and fully deserve to be available in libraries!

# News from around the school

## Year 12 Art Exhibition 'Self'

The Art department has been working in partnership with Shenstone Library to showcase students' work. The Year 12 Project 'Self' is currently being exhibited at Shenstone Library, Main St, Shenstone, Lichfield WS14 0NF and is available between 27th Feb – 27th March if you would like to view.

Thank you to the Art department and to all the volunteers at Shenstone Library who have made this possible.



## Save the date - Summer Festival

Following the success of last year's Summer Arts Festival we will be running an event again this year on **Friday 22nd June**.

More details to follow nearer the time but we hope that you will come and join us between 4.30pm—8pm to celebrate Art, Drama, Literature, Music and much more.

In the meantime, why not join us for the **Spring Music Concert from 7pm on Thursday 15th March** in Bader Hall. Details about tickets to follow shortly.

# News from around the school

## The Year Nine 'Tenner Challenge' launches with a resounding success in the Business Department

Ever wanted to be your own boss? Make all your own decisions? Make lots of money for yourself and charity? Well, this is exactly what a group of year nine students did for six weeks during the 'Tenner Challenge' with the support of Miss Baggott and Mrs Cusack from the Business department.

Armed with an initial investment of just £10 per team, the aim of the challenge was to create as much profit as possible with a 50:50 split between themselves and a chosen charity. The students' sense of giving back to their community was admirable and they were incredibly proud of raising money for causes that meant so much to them personally.

The businesses raised an astonishing £475.67 from their initial £10 investment to share with their chosen charities of Macmillan Cancer Support, RSPCA, Epilepsy Action, Teenage Cancer Trust, Cancer Research and Cats Protection.

The 2018 entrepreneurs for the Tenner Challenge were:

- Moxxical Mocktails
- Helping Hands
- Sweet Treats
- Great Cakes

During the challenge the teams undertook several challenges including:

- Creating a Business Plan
- Creating a Logo and producing consistent merchandise
- A 'Dragons Den' pitch
- Creating a marketing campaign which led to one group even creating a TV advert!
- Finale Trade Fair

This valuable life experience has allowed each student to develop new skills in the world of Business that they will be able to use for many years to come. When asked for ideas for

next year, the response we gained time and time again was "it should last longer," "every task was fun - don't change

anything" and "it really boosted our confidence working in the real world".

### ***So, who won in the end?***

It was a close race with the leader changing every week, but at the final celebration meeting it was announced that 'Helping Hands' were the winners!



All the participants were presented with achievement certificates from Ms Rutherford who spent time talking to each Business to hear about their experience, which the students really enjoyed sharing.

### ***Well done Tenner Challenge teams!***

We were so impressed by your dedication, resilience and creativity. Our thanks also go out to all the staff and students who supported the Finale Trade Fair event to make it such a success.

Finally, we wanted to share a comment from one of our young entrepreneurs who we hope will be a future mentor for our new teams next year:

***"I really enjoyed selling to people and getting to know what they liked. My experience with the Tenner Challenge was a positive one since it taught me new skills that will help with my future" Katie, Moxxical Mocktails.***

**The Tenner Challenge will return next year. Get your business ideas ready!**

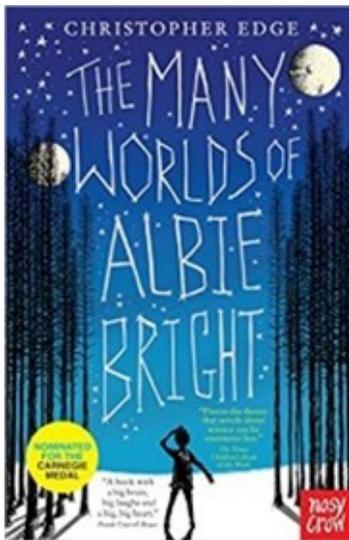
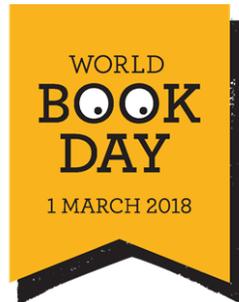
**Could you be our next winner?**

# News from around the school

## World Book Day 2018 in the LRC

Here in the Library Resource Centre we take every opportunity to celebrate books and reading – but when better than around World Book day!

Our World Book Day Celebrations took place the week beginning 26th February with the actual World Book Day being Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March.



As well as book themed assemblies for all Year groups, we had lots of activities for students to get involved in.

To kick off we were excited to welcome acclaimed novelist, Christopher Edge, author of 'The Many Worlds of Albie Bright' who came into school on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February to speak to the whole of Y7. This was followed by a question and answer session and an opportunity for book signing.

Our Creative Challenge this year is 'Book in a Jar'. Individual students and tutor groups were invited to put clues in a jar to depict a book. There will be a prize for the winner(s). An ideal opportunity to get creative! Mrs Thompson ran a lunchtime workshop to help inspire us.



We also distributed the £1 World Book Day tokens to all students. This year there is more choice of how to spend the vouchers. Five novels chosen for World Book Day are available for only £1.50 when the voucher is redeemed. See [www.worldbookday.com](http://www.worldbookday.com) for more information.

## ASDAN Group

The year 11 ASDAN group recently planned a visit to Birmingham Library. We went from Lichfield City station to Birmingham New Street on the train. We took a short walk through the city passed the Town Hall towards the library.



We spent all our time exploring the main attractions of the library from the Shakespeare room to the children's section, including the secret garden and the glass room. Lunch was eaten on the train journey and we thoroughly enjoyed the outing.

## School meals at King Edward VI School

We are continuing to develop our catering service in school and this recent picture shows you what is on offer. Students are invited to come and enjoy a Roast Dinner every Wednesday at Bader canteen. All fresh vegetables and locally sourced produce.



# Sports

## Cross country

Well done to all of our runners who represented the school via Cannock district team at the Staffordshire Schools Championships at Rodbaston on Saturday 3rd February. Our runners, amongst other local students, achieved some fantastic results in conditions that were tough going. All students have performed well in a high level competition, with Emilie Bullock, Sian Duval, Ben Edwards & Lewis Duval, and Natasha Lee finishing 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th respectively in their events. Many of our students will now progress to the next level.

## Netball

All teams still remain unbeaten in the league for all year groups. After half term, the tournaments for Y7-9 will quickly be upon us and we are hoping to bring back all trophies.

## Follow us on Twitter

For more sports results, why not follow the department on Twitter @KESlichfield\_PE

## Leisure Centre & the Astro Turf

Since taking on the running of the Leisure Centre and the synthetic pitch in January, we have been keen to ensure that the community can access these facilities out of school hours.

There are regular bookings Monday– Saturday across all the facilities but if you are interested in making a regular indoor or outdoor booking for sports then please get in touch via [office@kingedwardvi-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@kingedwardvi-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk) to check availability.



King Edward VI PE @KESlichfield\_PE - Jan 18  
KS3 county badminton finals today at Clayton. Both boys and girls teams won bronze medals. Outstanding performances and determination all day 🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆🏆



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