

Update from the Headteacher

It has been a really busy term so far with Christmas already making an appearance in the hall—our Christmas tree, kindly provided by the PTA, is looking beautiful.

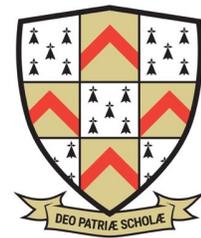
The two-year project to refurbish and replace key buildings has begun and I have provided a brief update on the last page of Kespress. We anticipate that the refurbished areas of the Sports Centre will be finished shortly and ready for use early in the Spring term. The most noticeable change for parents and visitors will be from February half-term when our main Visitor Reception will be relocated to the Sports Centre building. This will be more accessible, with access to adjacent parking and will also provide greater safeguarding for our students. More details will follow nearer the time.

We work hard with students to support them in reaching their goals and aspirations. It was a pleasure to welcome Beth Cobden back to her former school last week. Beth completed her A Levels here in 2011 before heading off to university. Since then she has had an incredible journey and shared with us at A Level Presentation Evening her experiences as part of the gold medal-winning England Netball Team at the Commonwealth Games.

In October, the Department for Education released the initial progress data for GCSEs in 2018. Our Progress 8 score has risen to 0.30, which is considered Above Average (in the top 30% of schools) for student progress in a core range of subjects. Our students take a wide range of courses and performed exceptionally well across the board. We know they are very capable and attainment should be very high—71% of students achieved a Grade 5+ in both English & Mathematics GCSE, 86% of students achieved a Grade 4+ in both English & Mathematics. Students at King Edward VI School out-performed all other non-selective schools in Staffordshire on this measure in 2018. Hard work and collaboration between students, staff and families has been central to this success. We are really pleased with how the current Year 11 have been working this term, their autumn term assessments look very promising and as they prepare for their mock exams in January, we know that subject teachers are keen to support them in developing effective strategies for independent revision.

Kespress provides a snapshot of just some of the activities and developments in school. Please follow us on Twitter @keslichfield for regular updates and information in addition to our email and text updates.

Jane Rutherford, Headteacher



KING EDWARD VI
SCHOOL LICHFIELD

Autumn Term Diary Dates

Term ends

Friday 21 Dec at 1pm

Christmas holiday

Monday 24 Dec—Friday 4 Jan

Return to school

Mon 7 Jan 2019

Some other key dates

Presentation evening

Wed 5 Dec

Year 11 Presentation Evening
(For last Year's Year 11
Students and parents)

Parents' evenings

Tue 27 Nov—Y11 Parents'
Evening

Thursday 13 December—Y11
Science Revision Skills Session

Events

Mon 10 Dec—Carol Service

Tues 18 Dec - Students'
Christmas Lunch

Wed 19 Dec—Staff Christmas
Lunch

PTA events

Christmas Fayre - Fri 23 Nov

School updates

PTA



If you are able to help at the Christmas Fair even for an hour to set up or clear away, please contact Bader reception or email us at kingedwardspta@gmail.com

It is our largest fundraiser of the year and means Christmas is just around the corner. This year we have been able to help **fund** the purchase and installation of the sound system. For any of you who are starting your **Christmas shopping**, please do register online with **Easyfundraising**; this raises money for the school with no cost to yourself.

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/kingedwardlichfield

The new school lottery is a great success with over 120 weekly tickets sold, with a weekly prize of £38 – congratulations to all our weekly winners. Why not sign up to this great fund-raising initiative. It costs **£1 a week** and someone in our lottery is guaranteed to **win £38** 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>

The next full **meeting of the PTA** is on **Monday 21st January 2019 at 7 pm** in Bader Bistro; **all welcome.**

If you would like to get in touch with the PTA, please contact Bader reception or email us kingedwardspta@gmail.com . **We would love to hear from you if you have any fundraising ideas of your own, would like to be involved, or work for a business that may be able to help us.**

Senior 5

The first half term of the 2018/2019 year has most definitely been a success.

We have welcomed the new Year 12 students to sixth form and Year 7 students to the school. We hope that everyone has settled in well and enjoying everything that King Edwards has to offer.

We were lucky enough to attend Dr Samuel Johnson's 309th birthday celebrations in September, taking part in the civic ceremony and the annual supper. This was an incredibly interesting day for the five of us, which we all enjoyed immensely. Lauren Morby, School Captain, delivered an incredible speech at the supper and we all enjoyed the fabulous company and food!

We are currently in the process of organising the Christmas raffle which will take place at the Christmas Fayre on 23rd November. Tickets will be handed out to students at the start of next half term and it would be great if everyone could sell as many as they can to raise as much for the school as possible! There will also be a prize for the tutor group who sells the most tickets... so get selling!

We would like to thank our Year 13 prefects for their continued support and dedication with duties tours, open evening and much more. All your help is very much appreciated by both staff and the Senior 5. In the near future, we will begin looking for Year 12 prefects to take over responsibility from the Year 13's. We are looking forward to hearing from those interested in this opportunity.

If you have any queries or suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact us on

senior5@kingedward-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk.

We hope everyone has a successful and exciting year.

Libby Queen (Head Girl) on behalf of the Senior 5

School updates

Attendance Update

Attendance figures to 22nd October against our target of 96% are as follows:

Whole school: 96.01%

Years 7-11: 96.19%

Years 12-13: 95.2%

In early October you should have received an email that brought to your attention the school's Attendance Policy. If you haven't had chance to read the email, please can we draw your attention to it once more and ask that you familiarise yourselves with the content. For your convenience the information is below.

The following key points from the Attendance Policy form part of our commitment as a school to safeguarding your children. They apply to all students, including those in the Sixth Form.

If your child is too ill to attend school a parent/carer should **text school on 07860 034183 before 9.15am on the first day of absence** with the student name, tutor group and a brief reason for the absence. Please note that this text number is for **absence reporting only and not general enquiries**.

Please do not use the office@kingedwardvi-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk email address for absence reporting or attendance enquiries:

This address should be used for general school enquiries. Leave of Absence forms for the attention of the headteacher should also be sent to this address. Please use the following email address for **attendance enquiries and emailing proof of illness/medical appointments**:
attendance@kingedwardvi-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk

Student absences must be reported by a parent or carer, not the student or a representative of the parent/carer.

- If your child is 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 your child is safe. Proof of illness, for

example a copy of a prescription, may be requested for extended periods of illness or where a student's attendance is less than 90%

- Students suffering from sickness and/or diarrhoea should not return to school until 48 hours from the 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 advance warning via text on 07860 034183.**
- A late mark (L) will be applied to students who arrive at school 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. Any student arriving late to school but before 9.15am should go to registration to obtain their attendance mark.
- **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** (available from the Attendance section of the website), as far in advance as possible. Forms should be sent into school for consideration by the Headteacher. If leave of absence is not granted and the student is still taken out of school, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised and may be subject to a Penalty Notice fine.
- 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.

School updates

Attendance Update Continued

Now that you are able to see your child's attendance percentage on Switch, please be aware that if they take time out of school for anything other than an approved educational activity, for example a medical appointment, this will affect their percentage attendance. Please be aware that any apparent discrepancies in attendance percentages may be resolved by our continual register checking and updating process. Please allow up to 5 working days for this to happen. If you still believe that there is an error, please contact:

attendance@kingedwardvi-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk

For further details and a full copy of the Attendance Policy please see the Attendance page of the school website, accessed via the Information tab.

If you didn't receive a copy of the email referred to, and your contact details need updating, please send them to:

studentdetails@kingedwardvi-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk

Energy Quest Workshop

The Energy Quest session was a fun couple of hours! We learnt about the earth's energy resources running out and what the alternatives are. We then put together mini electric cars and raced them on a track to see how far we could get them to go in a straight line. It was an interesting day and it also showed us the different roles which engineers play in our society.



Relationship and Sex Education at KES

After much discussion and debate the government has finally announced that relationships and sex education will become statutory. The New provision will start in September 2020, all secondary schools are required to provide relationships and sex education and all primary schools are required to provide relationships education. The new legislation applies to all schools. The requirement for all secondary schools is for relationships and sex education, which adds to the existing requirement for sex education. Parents will still have the right to withdraw children from RSE that sits outside of the Science Curriculum.

In preparation for this exciting addition to the curriculum, the school appointed Mrs Weaver and Mrs Cottier-Cooper as RSE Lead teachers to ensure that the RSE provided here at KES is effective, meets the needs of the young people and the requirements of the curriculum.

To this end we will shortly be publishing a new RSE policy, and lessons based on the expected curriculum content have already begun.

Last term Year 7 and 9 were the first to receive lessons based in the new content and we wanted to share some feedback with you.

Year 7 lessons focused on the topics of changes at puberty, positive relationships and body image. At the end of the topic we sent out a survey which we asked pupils to reply to anonymously. 171 pupils responded.

91% agreed or strongly agreed that they had a better understanding of the opposite sex.

93% agreed or strongly agreed that they were more informed about puberty

80% agreed or strongly agreed that they felt more confident in dealing with difficult situations with friends

The full survey results can be found here:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/stories/SM-TJ8S88M/>

News from around the school

Curriculum Enhancement Days

Autumn 2018

Team Building at Shugborough—Our Asdan Class

On the first Curriculum Enhancement Day in October, the Year 10 and our Year 11 Asdan group went to Shugborough to take part in four different outdoor activities.

We had not met the Year 10 group before, so we started the day with some challenging team games. We certainly knew them well after trying to move across the field using 4 crates. It was a bit of a crush!

Next challenge was to ignite cotton wool using only a flint. We soon moved onto making a fire, after collecting sticks from the woods. The best bit of this activity was toasting the marshmallows from the glowing embers of our fires.

In the afternoon we had a great experience riding the BMX bikes on the purpose made BMX trail. The instructors took us around the course bit by bit, giving us useful tuition on navigating the different humps and rollers.

After we had completed a circuit we could go round on our own. It was a bit scary and challenging, but we persevered until we were speeding around the circuit on our own.

RE Trip—8G1 Visits to:-

Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara, Derby

Bhawan Temple (mandir)

St Michael' Anglican Church, Lichfield

Holy Cross Catholic Church, Lichfield

A few of our student's comments following a very enjoyable day out.

'At the year 8 RE trip we most enjoyed the gurdwara. It was very interesting and we learnt about Sikhism. There was food that we tried (it was amazing!) overall we really loved the experience'- Kayzie Toller and Izzy Redmond

'We enjoyed exploring the different traditions of the religions, especially tasting sikh food at the gurdwara. It was really interesting to see the different things that each religion do and wear to worship their god. When we went to the churches, it was interesting to see the two sides of Christianity and the history behind the religion. We enjoyed the day very much overall.' - Molly Allcott, Elizabeth Farmer, Erin Gallagher-Henson and Lottie Groves

'At the RE trip we enjoyed the food at the sikh gurdwara, which was chickpeas and yoghurt, with chappatis. We liked learning about what Sikhs have, for example, a comb, head covering, knife etc. We also enjoyed learning about the protestant and catholic church, and how we saw the clothes/robes. They have different clothes for different religious occasions.' – Alfie Pearce, Alexander Brewster, Ezra Lambert, Billy Fordham and Nabil Miah.

'On curriculum enhancement day, we enjoyed the food at the gurdwara because it tasted good. We also learnt about the 5K's in Sikhism.' – Harry Sparkes, Joe Matthews, Harvey Groom and Charlie Black

'We enjoyed the food and experience of curriculum enhancement day. Everyone was very welcoming and we learnt loads.' – Joseph Zaccaria, Charlie Marks, Connor Hunt and Daniel Carter

'We learnt about how different religions pray and how they do it. We saw people praying and all of their gods symbols. For Sikhism you have to wash your hands and take your shoes off so you don't bring in any dirt. Also, we got to taste all of the Sikh food. In the afternoon, we went to two different churches and saw the differences between how each church is laid out.' – Eva Marshall, Maisie Townsend, Amelia Harwood and Irini Pitsillidis

'We liked the gurdwara the most because we got to experience the food they eat and also had a tour of the upstairs of the gurdwara. It was cool, how we could see all the Sikhs come to pray and then get something to eat.' – Jessica Myhill, Davina Barry, Ruby Wilkes and Tru Taylor

News from around the school

Curriculum Enhancement Days Autumn

2018 Continued

GCSE History Trip to Imperial War Museum North

The IWM North building is considered a masterpiece of contemporary architectural design. As we arrived, a T-55 Soviet era tank was guarding the car park.

Inside the museum, we were first given a talk about life in Germany during the 21 years between the two world wars, the Weimar republic and Hitler's rise to pre-eminence in German politics. We did case studies of people who lived through the time between the wars to assess how each of their lives were affected in different ways by the rise of National Socialism in Germany and Fascism in the rest of the European continent.

We then went into the main exhibition. We split into small groups or pairs to look at the artefacts of wars through the 20th century. We saw a section of the Berlin wall retrieved after it was torn down in November 1989, a letter written by Montgomery about the eighth army in North Africa and a copy of Mein Kampf signed by Hitler.

We also saw a section of metal from a window frame from the twin towers, a sailor's hat worn on HMS Belfast and Hawker Harrier jump jet. We then went into the remembrance hall, where we saw Edwin Lutynos' designs for the London cenotaph, various poppy designs since WW1 and a football shirt worn by Juan Mata in 2014 to commemorate the beginning of WW1 a century before. We then went out onto Salford Quays to see the poppies to commemorate the end of WW1, 100 years ago.

Lest we forget.

By Ben Saunders



Year 10 Visit to MAD Museum

Today our Year 10 Design and Physics pupils had a great day out at the MAD Museum (Mechanical Art and Design) in Stratford Upon Avon, learning all about Energy, Motion and Mechanisms. These are a key part to both curriculums and pupils were able to understand them in a practical environment, as well as seeing how the subjects cross over. The pupils represented the school very well and were really able to enhance their learning in a fun and practical way. A great time was had by all.



News from around the school

Curriculum Enhancement Days Autumn 2018 continued

The Art Department Remembers

2018 marks 100 years since the final year of the First World War. In remembrance Year 8 are taking part in the big draw and have created their own poppy installation. They experimented with a variety of techniques, materials and processes including; wire and large scale drawings. The poppies are on display on the school grounds.



Poetry By Heart - World War 1 Centenary

This month Eliza Del Cisne and myself, Rhiannon Stone, along with Mrs Emery, our resident Librarian, had an incredible trip to France and Belgium for four days as part of the Poetry by Heart initiative.

Run by the First World War Centenary Battlefield Tours Programme, we visited historic battlegrounds and monuments, as well as cemeteries commemorating those who died, with a large focus on the poetry of that era. Along with 15 other Poetry By Heart contenders from across the country, we recited work by a range of poets, some in their native language.

It was a harrowing and moving experience especially as names were found on memorials of people that actually attended this school in their youth, really bringing the effect of war home.

For more information on Poetry By Heart see <http://www.poetrybyheart.org.uk/>

News from around the school

**Curriculum Enhancement Day—
Wednesday 10th October**



Languages Department

This is my response to the Girton Languages Day. I really enjoyed the day at Girton. It was useful not only for learning about languages at university but university as a whole. At the beginning of the day, we were given a talk on the degree, the culture and history of the languages we were looking at (e.g. German, Italian, Spanish, French) and then we looked at different types of translation; such as Literal and Idiomising. We then had a culture session which was interesting - I did the German one in which we looked at Bertolt Brecht and his influences. Then we had a language session; I did French, in which we examined how young people speak in France and how they use negative words, like we do in English, to describe something good. I found it extremely helpful and fascinating. After that, we had a talk on University as a whole which was helpful to all of us as they outlined all the different types of university and the A-Levels that are most desirable or 'facilitating'. Overall, I thought that it was a very beneficial and interesting day for me.

By Catriona Davies Year 11 Student

National Poetry Day October 4th 2018



We celebrated this event by inviting students and staff to send in titles of their favourite poems on a leaf outline. This has been made into a 'Poet Tree' with all the poems sent included on the display

The choice of poems was wide and varied, from those studied for GCSE to popular old favourites.

This year there was a special interest in war poems being the centenary of World War 1, when poems played an important part in recording the nature of what took place. The poem that was mentioned most on this subject was 'In Flanders Fields' which through its words, vividly paints a picture of the tragedy of this event.

Two poetry groups are run in school and students can come along share poems they like and they have chance to write their own.

Writing in this way improves comprehension, creativity and children's love of language.

News from around the school

Curriculum Enhancement Day

Year 7 Students spent the day taking part in Team Building on Johnson Field.

A big thank you to WiseUp Team Building, staff and Year 10 students who supported groups throughout the day. Fantastic weather also helped!



News from around the school

Curriculum Enhancement Days

Students who attended Beaudesert on Curriculum Enhancement Days were asked to write a few comments—here is a selection which we received:-

“I loved it! I enjoyed all the activities—I got further than I thought I would, getting to the top of the Eliminator. I would love to go back again and see if my group can get to the top of Jacobs Ladder. My favourite thing was the challenge course as it was really fun and the leader was really nice! I did it 8 times. Overall a great day that I enjoyed loads.”

“I did think that our group worked really well together. I also had a lot of fun on the crate stacking and also on the challenge course because it was a great atmosphere to be in.”

“I very much enjoyed Beaudesert because the activities were challenging. My favourite activities were the climbing ones.”



“I did something against fear of falling and was OK with it and I enjoyed it!”

“I enjoyed climbing because everyone was cheering you on .”

“I came out of my comfort zone when doing the tree climbing and crate stacking. It was really good to something I had never done before.”

“I loved the day!!! I made a friendship which I didn’t know was possible, when I was doing the crate stacking. I finally conquered my fear of working with boys. I had to hug my partner to get on the crates, it was amazing!!! I just loved the trip—it was awesome.”

“Trying new things and getting closer to people we didn’t know.”

News from around the school

Curriculum Enhancement Day—
Thursday 26th October

At Beaudesert



News from around the school

An update from the ICT and Computing Department.

It has been a busy term so far for the ICT and Computing Department.

Year 8 and 9 have been engrossed in the iDEA challenge with a few more Bronze Awards starting to come through. A fantastic achievement so far. Computing greats have been researched with a focus on Ada Lovelace, on Ada Lovelace Day in October celebrating women in technology.

Year 10 iMedia and Computer Science students enjoyed a visit to the National Science and Media Museum, in Bradford on Curriculum Enhancement Day.

The museum explores the science and culture of image and sound technologies and their impact on our lives. Students took part in an exciting animation workshop, going behind the scenes of how favourites such as Morph and Wallace and Gromit are made. A variety of galleries were visited looking at Life Online, development of TV and the use of technology in Sport.

The museum is well worth a visit. For further information see

<https://www.scienceandmediamuseum.org.uk/>

Year 11 have made an excellent start to their iMedia coursework and should be proud of the hard work they have put in. Well done!

Year 13 have been developing prototype websites for Staffordshire Young Teen Fiction. Members of the YTF team visited school last week and were highly impressed with the quality of the websites produced. Next term will see the production of live websites that Staffordshire County Council hope to use to promote the initiative next year.



News from around the school



Natasha Lee—Year 8 Student

As mentioned in our last edition of Kespress, Natasha was undertaking a cycle ride to raise money for Cancer Research UK. Her proud mom, Penny sent us this update. “ So proud of the epic effort that Natasha and her dad Richard put in - out for 9 hours in mostly sun and then thunder at the end. Cycled just shy of 70 kilometres up and down 2 mountains - col de Mollard and Col de la Croix de Fer. Only set out to do 30 Km and one Col! They had a wrong turn, corrected, and then a killer diversion after the road they wanted was closed for road works . In essence 43 miles in total - but they never gave up .”

Natasha has raised £1800 currently and still has a few more donations to collect. Thank you to those who sponsored Natasha from the school .

Below is a link that shows their whole adventure for any interested cyclists. <https://www.relive.cc/view/1785502341?r=wa>

Huge Congratulations to Natasha and her dad from all her friends and staff at KE.

Netball

I thought I would share the successes of both the U14 and U16 girls netball teams who were both successful in the county round of the national cup on Saturday 10th November. Both teams were put to the test with some fantastic opposition but both outplayed opposition in order to progress to the regional round. The girls were brilliant and showed both high level play and determination to succeed. The Regional Finals are on Sunday 27th January in Telford. Excellent work girls.

Some other exciting results are our:-

Year 10's are the District Tournament Champions
U19's came third place in the County Tournament

Congratulations to all of the students who have represented school.



Building Plans

Phase 1 – Sports Centre Summer-December 2018

The old swimming pool was demolished over the summer holidays

Fencing around Sixth Form car park on Johnson field is almost complete. A key code or swipe card system will be used for Sixth Form students only to access. Access to and from Kings Hill Road is a safety hazard as there is no footpath. To be used for Sixth Form students with parking permits only.

Kings Hill Road lighting connections are being restored with a link to the Sports Centre & the traffic barrier moved further down the hill before the first car park.

Refurbishment to the Sports Centre includes space upstairs for the Exams Office and dedicated classroom space for PE theory teaching. Roof replacement for the Sports centre is also underway.

The new main Reception for the school will be downstairs in the Sports Centre. All visitors and deliveries will be directed to this building. It provides a more accessible, welcoming space and will improve safeguarding across the site. There are also some small private spaces for discussions with staff. We anticipate that this change will take place in February ; information for parents will follow and the appropriate signage etc. to redirect visitors will be gradually introduced.

We have also committed to a whole-school lighting project under a Department for Education supported SALIX grant. This will replace much of our existing lighting with LED lighting, improving its quality and energy efficiency.

Phase 2 – Building on the swimming pool footprint

From June 2019, building will start to provide new general teaching accommodation and a hub for Student Reception & Support Services.

This will provide teaching accommodation for the History department across two floors with student services at ground level. This building will also provide a direct link to the Bader building and to Bader Hall for evening events via stairs and a linked corridor with a lift for those who need it.

Initial drawings shown below



Phase 3 – including demolition of mobile buildings in Johnson, construction of new science accommodation

The third phase will provide additional accommodation for science in the Johnson side of the school and see the demolition of our 50-year old volumetric (mobile) buildings.

There will be work to repurpose accommodation where it has had a change of use, extend dining and social spaces and further work to fencing etc. will take place to further improve safeguarding.

King Edward VI School, Lichfield
Upper St John Street
Lichfield
Staffordshire
WS14 9EE

www.keslichfield.org.uk
office@kingedwardvi-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk
01543 421250/ 255714
Absence reporting line: 07860 034183 (text messages)

@keslichfield