

King Edward VI School, Lichfield

# KESPRESS

## WELCOME

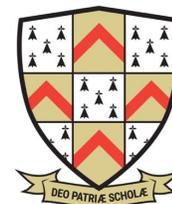
Welcome to our autumn edition of a new look Kespess. It is hard to believe that we are already seven weeks in to the new school year but the students and staff have worked hard to make every day count.

The Curriculum Enhancement sessions this Thursday afternoon were a great way to lead in to the half-term break. From the Big Draw and work on World Book Day to the Oddssocks production of Romeo & Juliet for Year 10 and the Year 9 History visit to the National Memorial Arboretum; students had a wide range of opportunities to try something new. We also had PSHE linked activities for Year 9 and 12 students, with opportunities for Year 11 to take part in a maths workshop linked to new GCSE assessments and time for Year 13 students to discuss their personal statements for university. All of these activities and others which have taken place are tailor-made for the students and I would like to thank staff for their support and commitment in providing opportunities beyond the classroom.

Our new students have adapted quickly to their new school and it was a pleasure to see so many of them involved in our Open Evening for Year 6 students and their families. We have our Post-16 Open Evening on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November and encourage all Year 11 students to come along and see what is on offer. With new two-year A level courses in place, students need to make good choices; staff and current Sixth Form students will be on hand to share their experiences.

Please take the time to read through the newsletter for news, important information and key dates. There will be more updates during the coming weeks via Twitter and the school website.

Jane Rutherford  
Headteacher



KING EDWARD VI  
SCHOOL LICHFIELD

### Autumn Term Dates For Your Diary

#### Autumn Reports Issued Week Beginning:

Monday 14 November – Y8 and Y11

Monday 28 November – Y7, Y9 and Y12

Monday 12 December – Y10 and Y13

#### Parents' Evenings

Thursday 3 November – Y12 Courses Evening (Y11 students and parents) – 7pm

Thursday 1 December – Y11 Parents' Evening – 4.30pm (Bader Hall)

#### Presentation Evenings

Friday 11 November – Y13 Presentation Evening (for last year's Y13 students and parents) - 7.30pm (Bader Hall)

Wednesday 23 November – Y11 Presentation Evening (for last year's Y11 parents and students) - 7.30pm (Bader Hall)

#### PTA

Tuesday 8 November – PTA Meeting – 7pm (Bader Bistro)

Friday 25 November - Christmas Fayre - 6.30pm

#### Deadlines

Monday 5 December – Deadline for Applications for Y12 places

#### Events

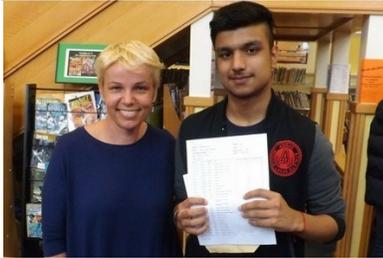
Tuesday 13 December – Carol Service - 7pm (Lichfield Cathedral)

#### Term Ends

Friday 16 December – Early Closure 1.30pm

#### Term Starts

Tuesday 3 January 2017



## Successful summer

We returned in September on the back of some fantastic examination results.

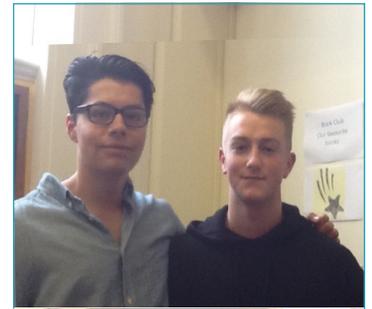
Our GCSE results were our best ever – 80% of students achieved A\*- C in both GCSE English and Maths, an improvement of 6% on last year's results. We're particularly proud of the progress made by our students, with 86% making at least expected progress in English and 84% in maths, well above the national trend.

Our A level students were successful in securing places at their chosen universities, with others going on to higher level apprenticeships or employment.

All this reflects the hard work of our students, teachers and support from parents — we look forward to celebrating this fantastic year with our students at the presentation evenings this November.

More recently, we have been able to see how strongly these results have compared to Staffordshire-wide data. King Edward VI School ranks second in the county for students achieving A\*-C in English and Maths.

Well done!



*"We returned in September on the back of some fantastic examination results"*

### Taste of King Eddies for catering

We've recently taken our catering team in-house.

The team work hard to create a wide, nutritional menu – these are published on the website so do take a look at what we offer.



### School improvements

We have fitted new toilets in Q Block over the summer holidays—we are sure our students agree that this is a huge improvement!

We are also having new windows fitted in the Science Block over half term, which will keep us all warmer and improve the exterior of the building.

### Attendance update

As a school, we all want students to develop to their full potential. Promoting excellent attendance is fundamental to students making progress and we are committed to working with parents and carers to ensure that students achieve as high a level of attendance as possible.

Our target level of attendance is 96%. Figures to 17 October 2016 are as follows:

Whole school:	96.1%
Years 7-11:	95.6%
Years 12-13:	97.7%

Students should be at school on time, every day the school is open unless the reason for the absence is unavoidable.

If a student is too ill to attend school, contact should be made via phone or email as early as possible on each day of the absence.

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

Any requests for leave of absence in term time will only be authorised under exceptional circumstances and should be applied for in advance using the Leave of Absence form that is available along with further information regarding attendance on the website.

### Parent Pay

Due to changes to our cashless catering system with effect from Monday 31 October 2016, 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.

To ensure this is a smooth transition it is essential that all negative balances are cleared. We would therefore ask you to please check your child's parent pay account and make any necessary payment accordingly. If you require a reminder of your log-in details please contact the Finance Office.

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 for. Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact the school.

### Sixth form open evening

Our Sixth Form Open Evening is on Thursday 3 November.

Two talks will take place in Bader Hall at 7pm and at 8.30pm. There will also be an opportunity to view the school, and to speak to staff and students across departments to find out more about the courses of study on offer.

### Careers event

Chase Terrace Technology College is holding a careers exhibition on Wednesday 9 November from 5-8pm. Students will have the opportunity to speak to employers, colleges, training providers, professional institutes and universities. They will also be able to access impartial advice and guidance to discuss the wide range of local and national opportunities available to them at Post 16 and Post 18.

### Communicating with parents

We are improving how we communicate with parents. We're making some changes to our website as well as regularly updating our Twitter feed throughout the week.

Make sure you check in on the website or follow us on Twitter to stay on top of our latest news.

@keslichfield





## Harry Yates

Congratulations to Year 13 student, Harry Yates, who is a finalist at the Sports Across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent (SASSOT) Aspiring Athlete of the Year Awards. Harry is a cyclist and has represented at a national level for cyclo-cross. Alongside his outstanding sporting performance, Harry is also one of our Senior Five. He is attending the award ceremony on 1 November and will also making a presentation on his journey so far.

Good luck Harry!



## Business success for students

A team of King Edward VI budding entrepreneurs ended last term on a high after scooping third place in the National Young Enterprise Finals. The students marketed the At Risk Disk, which uses a vehicle's redundant tax disc holder to contain important information about the driver to be accessed in the event of an accident or emergency. As well as reaching the final stages of the national competition, which took place at the Emirates Stadium, representatives of the team also made an appearance on BBC Breakfast.

The team won the Best Presentation award in the UK final—a fantastic achievement, particularly considering there were more than 19,000 entrants in the Young Enterprise competition!

The concept proved such a hit that Halfords now stocks At Risk Disk in five of its stores, with the team now in final negotiations to sell the product across more than 400 Halfords stores – watch this space!

[www.atriskdisk.co.uk](http://www.atriskdisk.co.uk)

@atriskdisk

Our thanks go to Lorna Sheldon for supporting the team and coaching them in presentation skills.

Congratulations to the Young Enterprise team:

Jade McArdle	Tom Russell
Anna Bastin	Fraser Shankly
Leah Evans	Dan Slater
Ryan Hopper	Cam Smith
James King	Polly Turner
Patrick Moloney	Lauren Ward
Kate Nicholas	John Wint
Cara Randle	James Woolley

## Y8 students transform for art project

Y8 students ended this half term with an ambitious art project - covering the hall floor entirely with paper and becoming human spirographs, inspired by the work of Tony Orrico.



## Students raise the roof for Dedication Day Service

Our annual Dedication Day Service for Y7, Y8 and Y12 students took place on 4 October. This is a long-standing tradition at our school, offering us an opportunity to reflect, celebrate and look forward to the academic year ahead. Music and readings were carefully chosen to reflect the theme of the service, which this year was working together for peace and unity. Well done to all our students who took part as well as our Music Department.

## Isobel Horsley

Year 12 student, Isobel Horsley, has been chosen as the new young poet laureate for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. She took up her role at a special celebration event on National Poetry Day on 6 October. Isobel said: "I'm thrilled to be chosen because I can share my other poetry with my age group and perhaps convince it's not as boring as they think it might be. I like writing about things I see or I think are interesting."

The judges, including current Staffordshire Poet Laureate Bert Flitcroft and outgoing Young Poet Laureate, Mathilda Houston-Brown said they were impressed with Isobel's poems and "ability to engage the audience when delivering her poetry."

Congratulations!



## German exchange

We are once again running our annual German exchange visit to the Kopernikus Gymnasium -in Niederkassel (between Cologne and Bonn).

A group of 12 pupils from Y9-Y12 are taking part in the trip from 19 – 26 November. We'll post photos and news from the exchange in our next edition.

## Language magazines

We will be ordering language magazines in school. These are magazines aimed at providing interesting and up to date articles in French and German for learners of these languages. As reading is worth 25% of the GCSE grade, it is important to build up skills gradually - if you are interested in ordering any, pupils should ask their languages teachers for an order form. A subscription to 5 magazines is £9.50 and this also includes access to online activities.

## French twinning exchange opportunity

A 16-year-old French boy from Lichfield's twin town, Sainte Foy lès Lyon, is interested in doing an exchange with a Y10 or Y11 student. He has been learning English for 4 years and would like to spend some time with a family here – in return, his family would be happy to host a student with them. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Mrs J Briden. If you don't fit the criteria here but are interested in the idea of an exchange, do get in touch.

Contact Mrs J Briden on [jbriden@kingedwardvi-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:jbriden@kingedwardvi-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk)

## Bon voyage

October saw some members of Y13 go to France for a week of work experience in Limoges, the capital of the Limousin, Staffordshire's twin county. Placements this year included the town hall and a florist so the vocabulary they learn will be quite varied!

## Limousin Exchange

Having visited Limousin at Easter to stay with their French pen friends, July saw Y12 hosting the French teenagers here for their return visit to Lichfield. As well as time in school, there was also the chance to take the visitors out on cultural visits, consolidating friendships and providing opportunities to practise their language further.

## Merci Florette!

During the summer holidays, Florette, the French-owned salad company based at Fradley, welcomed some Y12 students for a week of work experience. The students observed how French is used in the work place and learnt new vocabulary in a work-context. We are grateful to Florette for offering this opportunity.



## Sports teams off to flying start!

Our PE teams have had a fantastic start to the new school term:

### Netball

#### U19

Bishop Vesey (L)

St Joseph's (W)

#### Y11

Netball Evening League—  
Winners

Bishop Vesey (L)

St Joseph's (W)

Stafford (W)

#### Y10

Y10 Tournament—Winners

Stafford (L)

#### Y9

Stafford (W)

Arthur Terry (W)

#### Y8

Stafford (W)

Arthur Terry (L)

### Hockey

#### U16

Newcastle Grammar (L)

Denstone College (W)

#### U15

Denstone College (W)

#### U14

Unbeaten at District 7-a-side competition

#### U12

Unbeaten at District 7-a-side competition

Check the PE Department's Twitter feed @KESlichfield\_PE and our website for the latest fixtures and results.

### Rugby

#### 1st XV

Stafford Grammar (Natwest Cup) (W)

John Taylor (W)

Queen Mary Walsall (L)

Newcastle (L)

#### U15/Y10

Rawlett (L)

John Taylor (L)

Newcastle (W)

#### U14/ Y9

Rawlett (L)

Walton (W)

#### U13/ Y8

Rawlett (L)

Walton (W)

Newcastle (W)

#### U12

Walton (W)

Rawlett (W)

John Taylor (W)

Newcastle (W)

## PTA update

The PTA Christmas Fayre is on Friday 25 November and the team is looking for volunteers to help support the event—any help gratefully received. Please contact Hayley Howen if you're interested.

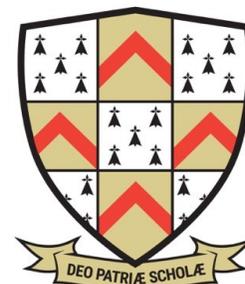
The PTA is also appealing to any parents whose employers may offer 'match funding'. Many companies throughout the UK offer their employees the chance to boost their own fundraising efforts by pledging a sum of money towards the campaign or even matching the sum. For example, Barclays Bank matched the funds raised for our Christmas Fayre last year on a £ for £ basis. This is such a simple way to help raise funds for our school— contact Hayley Howen for information on how your employer can help.

Contact: [Haleshowen@gmail.com](mailto:Haleshowen@gmail.com)

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