



# King Edward VII School



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## NEWSLETTER December 2020

Welcome to the first School newsletter of 2020-2021.

In the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) it has been a very productive and exacting autumn term for the School. Staff and students have responded incredibly well to new systems, routines and to a completely new structure to the School day (staggered starting times, finishing times and lunch times). All have displayed great resilience, warmth, good humour and a sharp focus on teaching and learning.



The School continues to flourish in challenging circumstances and this is reflected in the contributions to this newsletter. Be amazed by a Year 7 historian and an exceptional Year 12 musician. Marvel at how students and the School continue to support local communities and charities. Positively enjoy reading about the School's high ranking in the Who's Who Top Ten State Schools in the UK on pages 21 and 22 and take time to pause to reflect upon Armistice Day 2020.

We hope you enjoy reading the articles in this edition of the School newsletter.

If you would like to keep up to date about the School on a regular basis, please follow us on Twitter: [twitter.com/KESSheffield](https://twitter.com/KESSheffield).

If you have an article that would be of interest to our School community, please email it to [jjackson@kes.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:jjackson@kes.sheffield.sch.uk) for consideration.

Warm regards

Linda Gooden  
Headteacher

### IMPORTANT DATES—subject to confirmation in light of COVID-19

- 7 January 2021 - Year 9 Parents' Consultation Evening
- 21 January 2021 - Key Stage 4 Options Information Evening for Year 9 Parents
- 26 January 2021 - Year 11 Parents' Consultation Evening - **new event to note!**
- 3 February 2021 - School closed to students - staff training day
- 9 February 2021 - Year 12 Parents' Consultation Evening
- February half term break - Monday 15 - Friday 19 February 2021
- 25 February 2021 - Year 10 Parents' Consultation Evening
- 3 March 2021 - Year 11 Revision Evening
- 11 March 2021 - Spring Music Concert
- 17 March 2021 - Post 18 Opportunities Evening and Year 12 Information Evening
- 18 March 2021 - Year 10 Science GCSE Evening and Year 10 Information Evening
- 25 March 2021 - Year 7 Parents' Consultation Evening
- Easter holiday - Friday 2 April - Friday 16 April 2021 - School closed
- 19 April 2021 - School reopens after the Easter holiday

# Our Students

## Supporting our local community - Crosspool bulb planting

Well done to the following Year 7 students who helped with the Crosspool planting on 5 November 2020: Josh Guite, Deakin Helliwell, Kalan Osbourne, Moses Armstrong, Jack Sievwright, Mika'il Ali, Faye Lee, Syd Myles, Bella Hughes, Aisha Fatima, Freya Rackham and Esther Peterson.

The students assisted with gardening tasks, including sprucing up the local planters at Crosspool. All students were enthusiastic and followed the instructions from Steve Reynolds.

Overall, it was a lovely morning which the students enjoyed. The students were an absolute credit to the School. They were keen, fantastic with completing all tasks and their social interactions with the public really made me so proud to be their Pastoral Manager.



Miss A Reeves  
Year 7 Pastoral Manager



The School also received a lovely message from Mr Steve Reynolds, Vice Chairman of the Crosspool Forum. He said, 'On behalf of the Forum, please can you pass on our thanks to the twelve KES Year 7 pupils and the members of staff that attended and helped out with the precinct planting yesterday. All the group were very well behaved and hopefully the pupils got something out of the experience'.

The planters are now restocked for the winter and should provide a bit of colour throughout the winter months. Once again many thanks. Have a good weekend and keep safe'.

Steve Reynolds  
Vice Chairman, Crosspool Forum



# Our Students

## Outstanding Historians!

One of our Y7 students, Elliot Taylor, completed an outstanding piece of work in History as part of our enquiry, 'why should the Silk Roads be included in the school curriculum?' We studied the trade routes across the ancient Silk Roads, stretching from the Far East to Europe, based on the best-selling book 'The Silk Roads' by Professor Peter Frankopan, a celebrated Oxford historian. At the end of the enquiry, students wrote a letter to the author explaining why the Silk Roads are important and should be part of the school curriculum. The History Department nominated Elliot's work as the best in the year. We agreed it was one of the best pieces of work we'd ever read by a Y7 historian. We sent Elliot's letter to Professor Peter Frankopan and were delighted that he took the time to reply:

Dear Mr Harland and Mrs Davis,

What an outstanding letter for Elliott to write – and for me to receive.

I am so impressed by how much thought Elliott has put into thinking about the Silk Roads but also about history in general, as well as the world around us. You must be very proud of him. And he and his classmates are very lucky to have such an open-minded and inspiring teacher to be encouraging this kind of independent thought.

So much of what Elliott writes rings a bell: riding a camel and thinking how this must have been in the past (people do still move goods this way, but roads, boats and planes are much quicker and more comfortable!); flying over mountain ranges and deserts; and also understanding how exchange is not just about buying and selling things, but about learning, thinking and even, sometimes, spreading disease.

You've both brightened up a cold frosty day here in Oxford; thank you for the lovely email. It has made my day.

Best wishes

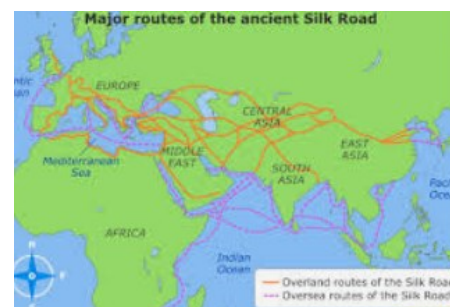
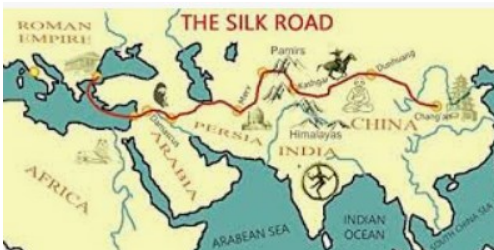
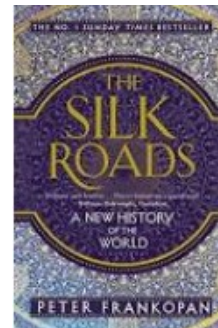
Peter Frankopan

Professor Peter Frankopan, FRHistS, FRGS, FRAI, FRAS, FRSA

Professor of Global History

Worcester College

Oxford, OX1 2HB



The History Department would like to congratulate Elliot for this outstanding achievement and thank Professor Frankopan for taking the time to recognise the outstanding work of one of our students.

Mr Matthew Harland

Curriculum Leader for History and Politics

## Our Students

### Wesley Hall Youth Team

Many young people, including students from King Edward VII School, continue to attend drop in sessions at Wesley Hall while adhering to the new COVID-19 requirements, including wearing masks and maintaining the correct social distance to keep to their risk assessment.

It is very important that young people can see their peers and friends for their well-being.

Sean Briscoe, Pre-teen and Youth Worker, shared the following message at the start of the term:

'I hope this email finds you well? I just wanted to email to let you know that the Drop Inn is going really well and the KES students are a credit to you and all of the other staff.

We have had in attendance:-  
Week 1 roughly 30,  
Week 2 roughly 50 and  
this week roughly 60.

They were all very happy to wear masks if they had them on them and keep to the required social distance to keep to our risk assessments.

The photograph is from our first week and this is the rough layout each week.

Many thanks

Sean Briscoe



### Chess Tournament 2019/2020

After a hard-fought contest which culminated in a virtual final due to lockdown, Matthew Sherwood, a Year 12 student at the time, was crowned winner of the King Edward VII School chess championship. Runner up this year was Mr P York - a former member of staff, with Dr Combley, a previous KES champion, having to settle for bronze.



The trophies and prizes were presented by Mr S Cooke, Head of Sixth Form, to Matthew and Dr Combley in a mask-wearing, elbow-bumping, COVID-secure ceremony. Due to the restrictions in School, Mr York was unable to attend.

We hope to get the next tournament up and running with Post 16 bubbles in January 2021.



## Our Students

### Wonderful Musician!

YOUNG VOICES



Lucy Heeley, a Year 12 student, is an exceptional musician who played The Last Post in the main reception area at Upper School on Wednesday 11 November 2020 as part of the Remembrance Day assembly.

She was featured in an article recently in Brass Band World. The article is reproduced with Lucy's permission.

From a first-ever brass band contest at the age of ten in Section 4, to leading Strata Brass in the Yorkshire Championship Section less than three years later - the fledgling career of cornettist, **Lucy Heeley**, has seen a quite remarkable turbo-paced rise to the top. **Jonathan Bates** reunites with his former principal cornet and catches up with Carlton Main Frickley Colliery's young cornet star.

**For someone so young to be in the position you are now, you must have had a rapid rise through the ranks! Talk us through your progression, from when you started out playing, to where you are now?**

I started playing cornet at the age of eight, with lessons at school, and played with the local music service brass band. I joined my first senior band, Thurcroft Welfare, aged ten, and played in my first Yorkshire 'Regional'. I then moved to Chapeltown Silver Prize, still aged ten, where I stayed for three years and played in two National Finals during this time. I worked my way up from the back row to assistant principal and was then asked to join Strata as principal cornet, aged 13. I competed with the band at the National Finals, Spring Festival and Yorkshire 'Regional' Championship Section, before moving to the solo cornet bench at Carlton Main Frickley, aged 14.

**Playing principal cornet in the Championship Section Yorkshire 'Area', aged only 13, is quite a remarkable achievement. How did you find this experience, especially given that Strata was drawn directly between Black Dyke and Brighouse and Rastrick?**

It was really enjoyable. I was nervous before going onto the stage but as soon as I sat down, those nerves disappeared. It was a strange feeling to take the stage between two big-named bands and to sit in the chair that Richard Marshall had just vacated. It was an amazing experience that I will never forget.

**Recent years have seen Carlton Main enjoy a resurgence on the contesting platform; have you any favourite moments so far with the band?**

Even though I have only been with the band for just over a year, I've already had so many highlights. I've played at amazing venues, including Symphony Hall and The Royal Albert Hall. A particular highlight was finishing second with the band at the 2019 Brass in Concert, at Sage Gateshead. We played a train-themed programme and a special memory for me is that we used a train whistle given to me by my grandpa, who has passed away, so I will always feel that part of him was on the stage with me that day. Finishing second at the Yorkshire Regional this year another highlight and, just before lockdown, performing a duet with Paul Haigh in two concerts with the band.

## Our Students



**One of the most crucial things in a young player's development is learning from players around you in bands like Carlton Main. Not only do you sit in the same band as a player of Kirsty Walker's calibre, but you also enjoy lessons with her - what are the most important things you've picked up from Kirsty?**

Kirsty's sound is amazing, she just makes everything she plays sound so beautiful and effortless. She has helped me with my phrasing, breathing and sound. Sitting near to her in the band and listening to her inspires me to keep working hard to improve my playing.

**As with many players featured in Young Voices, you are also a member of the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain organisation, having started out in the Children's Band. How valuable have you found your experiences as a member of these organisations?**

Being part of these bands is a great opportunity for any young player. We performed alongside fantastic soloists such as Allen Vizzutti, David Childs, Carol Jarvis and Richard Marshall, to name but a few, and have experienced tutors mentoring us. We also play under some of the best conductors in brass banding, including the Resident Artistic Director of the Youth Band, Bramwell Tovey and the Musical Director of the Children's Band, Professor Nicholas Childs. Being a part of these bands has definitely played a big part in my development as a player.

**Aside from playing in brass bands, you've had a lot of success on the solo competition platform - can you expand on a few of your notable successes?**

The first competition I entered was Rotherham Young Musician, in which I competed against different instruments. I won my age category of the competition in 2017 and 2018. I've also entered Holme Valley Slow Melody Competition since 2017 and won various prizes, including: the Under-14 Slow Melody in 2017; the Open Air Varde and Under-18 Slow Melody in 2018; and Under-18 Slow Melody in 2019. I was overall Junior Champion in 2019 and Best Cornet in all three years.

**After such a rapid rise, where do you hope to see your career taking you next?**

I am hoping to get back to band soon with Frickley; to continue developing as a player in this supportive environment and, hopefully, to have further successes with the band. I'm also a keen trumpeter and am looking forward to meeting up with my new orchestra, Sheffield Philharmonic, as soon as possible. Over the last two years I've featured as a guest soloist with local choirs in their concerts and would love to have more opportunities like that in the future. I hope to continue to improve my playing whilst studying my A-Levels, before moving onto university or music college.

Brassbandworld.co.uk

Well done, Lucy! We are so proud of you!

# Our Students

## Christmas Card Competition 2020

All students were invited to design a Christmas card for 2020.

**Design a Christmas Card for our School!**

Winning entries will be printed as the School 2020 Christmas Card along with prizes.

Your colour image can be portrait or landscape on A5 (Half of A4) painting, drawing, collage or photograph accepted, so get creative!

Entries must be submitted by **Friday 20th November 2020**  
Post boxes for entries are in the School reception.  
Winners will be contacted the following week.

Please put your name, age and form on the back of your design  
Goodluck!

MASSIVE congratulations to the winners:

Tuana Taylor - Year 8  
Elly Dukeson - Year 8  
Post 16 student



Tuana Taylor - Year 8



Elly Dukeson - Year 8



Post 16 student



MASSIVE congratulations to the three runners up too: Evie Edwards, Year 8; Martha Parsons, Year 12 and Jeebika Karkie, Year 8.

## Our Students

### Year 7 students' messages to elderly people in Sheffield

Thank you to all Year 7 students who completed drawings, cards and letters for the elderly people in Sheffield who are in hospitals and care homes. You completed some lovely pictures and cards in your English lessons which we posted to Sheffield Churches Council for Community Care. They have now delivered your drawings and cards around the city and sent us a lovely thank you card.

It reads:

'To the wonderful students of King Edward VII School. Thank you SO MUCH for all your fabulous cards, drawings and letters. We have been able to send them to loads of our wonderful clients (too many to mention in such a small card) who we are sure will be delighted to receive such special 'happy post'.

Thank you so much  
Love and best wishes  
Everyone at Sheffield Churches Council for Community Care

WELL DONE YEAR 7!

Mrs Kathryn Proost  
Key Stage 3 Leader





## Our Sixth Form

### Welcome to King Edward VII School!

Although I don't think, hand on heart, any of the Post 16 staff really knew how it was going to feel for the three hundred plus new Year 12s! And I'm pretty sure neither did they!

Three and a half months on, to witness how much we *have* done in response to COVID-19, collectively, is simply breath-taking.

In the first week when we invited students into the Sports Hall to collect their timetables, we anticipated there would be some difficulty in hearing through a clear screen whilst wearing a face mask. We didn't, however, consider the acoustics of hundreds of shuffling feet, anxious socially distancing young people and conversations bouncing off the walls and deafening all around!

We have learned a lot and come an incredibly long way to meet these and many other issues head on. It has of course been a time of considerable stress for some of our students and we are very conscious that they are at the centre of everything we do. Online assemblies, remote tutors, blended learning, Google Classroom and one-way systems have quickly become the 'new normal'. Activities we previously took for granted have been adapted, such as the various enrichment options, the University Outreach Programmes and virtual work experience plus our in-house study support resources. Unifrog, our transition platform, provides a clear and motivational one-stop-shop to guide everyone, no matter what their intended career path is, through to the exciting Post 18 opportunities ahead. Our form tutors will provide the experience and support they need, when they need it.

This year has been a unique and challenging induction process but one we are confident we have managed with compassion and determination. Our new Year 12s are becoming, in a matter of twelve weeks, the capable, individual and ambitious students we would expect, despite the external forces railed against them. They have taken the constraints with good grace and excellent humour. They already are a flexible, willing and able cohort, adapting to change with such vigour and resilience it has been a privilege to observe. Never has our School motto been so apt – 'Fac recte, nil time ('Do right, fear nothing'). We have asked our students to do the right thing and they have feared nothing in their pursuit of betterment and learning.

Well done and thank you.

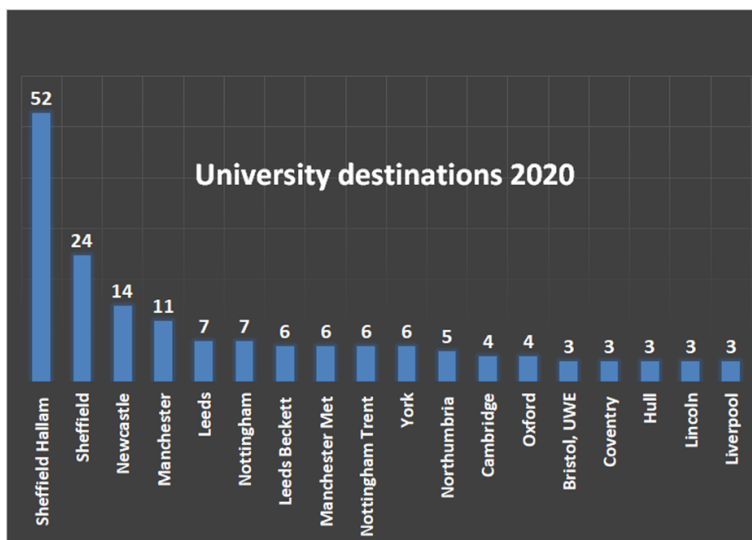
Mr Kirkup, Year 12 Raising Achievement Leader and The Post 16 Team

# Our Sixth Form

## Destinations of our ex-Year 13s

The cancellation of examinations last summer and then for them to be replaced by Centre Assessed Grades put our Year 13 students in an invidious position. When the tumultuous period in late August finally settled, the vast majority of our students progressed onto university. We had a busy time supporting Post 16 students last summer. A record 256 students applied, up 14% on 2019, with 224 (or 90%) successfully being placed. 45% of our students progressed to High Tariff providers, 39% to Medium Tariff and 16% to Low Tariff.

94 students progressed to Russell Group universities (42% of successful applicants) with four progressing to the University of Cambridge and four to the University of Oxford. Many of the cohort opted to stay in Sheffield with 52 at Sheffield Hallam University and 24 at The University of Sheffield. The early applicants did very well with eight into Oxbridge, five for Medicine and three for Dentistry.



The top five courses this year were: Engineering (all specialities) (17), Business and Management (14), Law (12), Biomedical Sciences (10) and Computer Science (10).



## Our Sixth Form

### Enrichment

Yet another first for King Edward VII School, a “virtual enrichment” experience! We would normally host an event for one period where students can meet and chat to a selection of different stakeholders who offer enrichment activities ranging from working in local primary schools as reading mentors to volunteering at Weston Park Museum. Many organisations have immediately cut volunteering opportunities for young people for obvious reasons, but we managed to offer twenty six different things to sign up for! For example, Sheffield Hospitals take a number of volunteers. Over 250 of the new Year 12 students signed up within forty-eight hours of the event proving how thirsty they were to make the most of their non-contact periods and newly found independence. Many of the activities have not yet been able to start but the organisers have their email list ready and waiting. When new activities are offered to School they are always advertised in the Post 16 bulletin, sent out each Monday, which is yet another reason to read this weekly digest carefully.

### Outreach

A total of thirty-seven Year 12 students have applied to The Discover Programme at The University of Sheffield. The programme is designed to give Post 16 students an experience of what it is like to be a student at The University of Sheffield. The programme is split into five subject and career pathways (Arts and Humanities and Social Sciences, Dental Professions, Law, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and Medicine) so that students can apply to the one that sounds the most exciting and the most interesting. The students are currently undertaking their remote selection interviews via Zoom meetings.

### UCAS – Early applicants

Our Year 13 students have been busy since returning in September with making plans for their progression out of King Edward VII School at the end of the year. The majority of our students have been in touch with their form tutors who are finalising their UCAS references. Others have already been seeking apprenticeships and employment opportunities. We have also had a record breaking number of early applicants this year with 58 students in total, 20 more than last year’s previous record! Of these 11 applied for courses at Cambridge, 12 at Oxford, 22 for Medicine, 10 for Dentistry and 3 for Veterinary Science. We have scheduled mock interviews for over fifty students over Microsoft Teams and Zoom platforms recently. This vital practice has only been possible by the generous support of volunteers. We are thankful for the support of ex-Headteachers, ex-Heads of Sixth Form, professors, hospital consultants, post doctoral students and student ambassadors.

### Post 16 Open Evening – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020

This year provided some challenges to show off the Sixth Form experience to prospective Y12 students. Our first Open Evening during a national lockdown! The virtual event was a success with over 1,500 unique visitors to our website on the evening and 2,300 visits to our ‘meet the subject’ pages, where visitors were able to ask each curriculum leader live questions about the intricacies of their subject in the Sixth Form. If you missed it, you can look at the recorded material here: <https://www.kes.sheffield.sch.uk/sixth-form> If you are in Year 11 we would love to work with you in the Sixth Form. Applications can be made on <https://www.sheffieldprogress.co.uk/> with a closing date of 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021. We were particularly proud of our fantastic young adults in the Sixth Form, their unscripted comments give a true flavour of what it is really like to be a student in the Sixth Form at KES. <https://vimeo.com/476607734>. For those of you who wondered what the School looks like from the air, the drone footage from Kestrel Imaging had us wowed. The majestic Grade 2\* listed building that we work and study in, looks amazing! <https://vimeo.com/476235647>

## Our School

### Remembrance Day 11.11.2020

The Headteacher led the Remembrance Day assembly for all Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 students at Upper School on Wednesday 11 November 2020, Armistice Day. The assembly was held remotely and started at 10.30am. Teachers logged into the assembly in their classrooms which was delivered by the Headteacher from the main hall at Upper School.



Mrs Kathryn Proost (Key Stage 3 Leader) led an assembly for all Key Stage 3 students at Lower School.

There was silence for two minutes at 11.00am on both sites. A bell sounded to mark the start and end of this period of silence. At Upper School, Lucy Heeley played The Last Post in the reception area. The Headteacher sent a letter to Lucy to thank her for her amazing performance. The School fell silent as a mark of respect and a time for reflection for those who have lost their lives in wars and conflicts across the world. The music resonated throughout the building and members of staff and students were moved by Lucy's playing of The Last Post.



### The War Memorial in the Upper School grounds.

The photograph was taken on Friday 6 November 2020 by Mr Craig Jarvis, Buildings Officer.

# Our School

In the absence of the annual Poppy Appeal by The Royal British Legion, because of COVID-19, King Edward VII School and The Old Edwardians' Association donated £100 each to the Legion.



**King Edward VII  
School**

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BA MEd NPQH

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15 November 2020

**Regional Administrators**  
The Royal British Legion Village  
Aylesford  
Kent  
ME20 7NX

Dear Colleague

**Donation to The Royal British Legion**

King Edward VII School is proud to support The Royal British Legion every year.

Each year we purchase two wreaths. One is placed inside the main reception at the Upper School site, which dates back to 1604 and The Sheffield Royal Grammar School, and one is placed on the War Memorial in the School grounds. I lead the annual Remembrance, Armistice, Day assembly for the School and a student plays The Last Post in reception, which resonates throughout the grand School building. King Edward VII School lost many students in the First World War and the Second World War. Honours boards are located in the reception area in memory of those who lost their lives. An Old Edwardian also lost his life in the Falklands War.

This year, in the absence of poppies as a result of COVID-19, King Edward VII School would like to donate £100.00 to the Royal British Legion. Please find enclosed a cheque for this sum of money. Please email a receipt for this donation to [ljackson@kes.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:ljackson@kes.sheffield.sch.uk)


Yours sincerely

**Linda Gooden**  
Headteacher









**The Old Edwardians' Association**

19 November 2020

**Regional Administrators**  
The Royal British Legion Village  
Aylesford  
Kent  
ME20 7NX

Dear Colleague

**Remembrance Day 2020 - Donation to The Royal British Legion**

I am privileged to be the President of the Old Edwardians' Association, an organisation which represents the Alumni of King Edward VII School, Sheffield.

Former pupils, and indeed current students, tell of the sense of pride, honour and the opportunities afforded them from receiving their education attending this quite remarkable School.

In an ever-changing world the School has maintained a sense of tradition, convention and friendships, forged within its buildings are maintained for a lifetime.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> November every year the day to day routine of the School is deferred at 11am and as one, rises and falls silent to remember those who fell in the two World Wars and in conflicts across the globe since.

A lone trumpeter sounds The Last Post and Reveille and wreaths are laid at the memorial sited within the School grounds. The names of those students and teachers who fell in defence of freedom are recorded upon the white stone and alongside stands a single memorial carved from local stone for a Royal Marine Commando who lost his life liberating the people of the Falkland Islands.

The Old Edwardians' Association was established at the end of the First World War by Major Robert Oliver Skeggs, a former pupil of the School and referred to as the hero of Cambrai; his exploits and artifacts having their own display at the Cambrai Museum in France. Skeggs had lost many School friends during the conflict and saw the opportunity for old colleagues, class-mates and contemporaries to remain in touch. A practice that continues to this day.

Mr J Parr,  
President of the Old Edwardians' Association,  
The Will House,  
Tremetham,  
Near Osgeston,  
Tynes,  
Conswell,  
Th2 5BJ

This year, in the absence of poppies, as a result of COVID-19, the Old Edwardians' Association would like to make a donation to the Royal British Legion in recognition of the remarkable work they undertake. Please find enclosed a cheque for one hundred pounds.

Your faithfully

*J Parr*

**John Parr**  
President of the Old Edwardians' Association

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## Our School

### Year 9s and the Higher Education Progression Partnership (HEPP)

On Monday 30th November 2020 all Year 9 students received a talk from the HEPP team regarding the benefits of Higher Education. HEPP are the Higher Education Progression Partnership from Sheffield Hallam University and The University of Sheffield. King Edward VII School has worked with them for several years now and really value the interventions they offer. The talk was informative and interesting and ties in with the options process which all Year 9 will be starting in January 2021.



The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.

**Sheffield  
Hallam  
University**



### Big Challenge News

After our success in the 2020 Big Challenge, we are pleased to say that several Lower School teams have already signed up to take part in Big Challenge 2021.

The BiG Challenge is an enterprise competition open to all secondary schools students and college students in Sheffield. Each team has the opportunity to design and grow a business from a £25 start up loan. So far eight teams have signed up from King Edward VII School and we wish them all well!



### Y9 University Mentoring Scheme

King Edward VII School is very proud to be a part of this prestigious scheme. Twenty Year 9 students have signed up to be mentored by current University of Sheffield students. The format will run virtually this year and we are looking forward to our continued partnership with The University of Sheffield.

We are very proud of our current Year 10s who took part last year in Year 9. Although cut short by lockdown, all have received certificates for their participation. A particular well done to Ruby Tickle and Emily Binney who were both awarded prizes for Mentee of the Year. Well done girls!

Mrs Kathryn Proost  
Key Stage 3 Leader

## Our School

### Year 10 Drama students use their lockdown time to learn new skills

'Tamasha' is a theatre company who are passionate about encouraging new talent. Earlier this year, as a response to the difficulties of drama students working practically during the first lockdown period, the company, supported by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Garfield Weston Foundations, launched a playwrighting competition. The fantastically talented current Year 10 Drama students jumped at the chance to get their creative juices flowing!



Initially, working remotely with Ms. Oates, the group found innovative ways of creating six word plays online, inspired by the videos posted by the company. The students then used these videos to explore different elements of drama, from creating believable characters, to working on the *Inciting Incident* which brings them together.



Once they returned to School, despite the challenges they faced, the students, like Mezaab Mahmood, used this material to write their own five-minute, thought-provoking scene for two characters. Furthermore, some of the students, such as Mary Scott, Hazel Giles and Isabella Larder, gave up their time to safely workshop ideas in the studio with Mrs. Evans, considering ways they could perform these socially distanced pieces for an audience.



Congratulations must also go to Merila Gramy and Florence Marston-Bolton, who persevered and worked tirelessly to craft their play. Both are avidly waiting to hear if their artistic entry, 'A Blank Page', has been successful! The chosen plays will receive tailored notes from one of the Tamasha Playwrights group, and favourites will be offered one-to-one mentoring and an invitation to complete a final draft for publication. The winning entries will be compiled into a digital volume celebrating young people's playwrighting and make it available to all participating schools and for free download on our website.

We'll keep our fingers crossed!

Ms Oates, Curriculum Leader of Drama



# Our School

## Personal, Social and Health Education

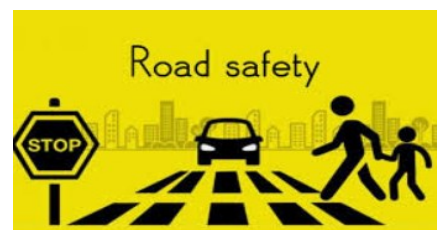
Since the students returned to School in September, the PSHE department has focused on a variety of topics to make sure that the students gain vital information about life related matters and about ways of coping with the stress.

Our main focus was bullying and mental health to make sure that students understand that everyone's wellbeing is important especially these days when life can be challenging for people and families.



PSHE teachers work on and offline to make sure that students recognise that their views and opinion do matter and that we are happy to listen to those - in or out of lessons.

During the PSHE lessons we have also discussed safeguarding, road and home safety situations, online safety, the importance of reporting bullying, the meaning of homophobia and LGBTQ.



Our Year 9 students also recently had the opportunity to work with medical students from The University of Sheffield on a climate change project and how climate change can affect health.



In Year 10 students have been learning about different disabilities. We had an online visitor answering questions on life with a visual impairment. In Year 11 we have covered emotional intelligence and maintaining good mental health.

Topics next term are:

Year 7 - Mental health and puberty

Year 8 - Families and LGBT issues

Year 9 - Gender equality and drugs

Year 10 - Equality (race) and healthy relationships

Ms C Perry - Curriculum Leader of PSHE

Mrs Z Puskas - Teacher of PSHE



# Our School

## Soroptimist International of Sheffield, King Edward VII School and toilet twinning!

Soroptimist International and King Edward VII School were proudly in the news recently.

The following article was published by The Sheffield Star.

### NEWS

# Flushed at success of new town twinning

**Julia Armstrong**  
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@juliaarmstrong

A Sheffield women's organisation and sixth-form students at a city school have joined forces to make international connections - through toilets.

Soroptimist International of Sheffield wanted to pass on the skills they have developed in running their club to a group of young women so they approached King Edward VII School, Broomhall, and have been working with Year 12 and 13 girls and staff for two years.

Their first project was running a fashion show which raised £1,000 for Rotherham Abuse Counselling Services.

Then the students embraced SI Sheffield's main



Sheffield Soroptimists in action

project for 2019-20 - to make Sheffield the first Toilet Twinned City in Yorkshire.

Toilet twinning supports the work of the charity Tear-

fund to bring better toilet facilities and hygiene to poor communities globally. Donors get a certificate with the co-ordinates of the toilet

they are twinned with - and the girls set out to make their own school the first Toilet Twinned School in Sheffield.

They held fundraising events, published articles in the school newsletter and delivered presentations in assemblies. They persuaded the headteacher and deputy headteacher to purchase a whole twinned school block.

The students and the Soroptimists have 42 toilets twinned in schools, youth clubs, gyms, surgeries and clinics, sports clubs, cafes, bars and restaurants, businesses, the town hall, the children's hospital and the city hall.

They are twinned with ones in Malawi, Pakistan, Cote d'Ivoire, Uganda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Nicaragua, Zambia and Congo.



Fundraising by Sheffield Soroptimists and school students

Sheffield is now only the third 'twinned city' in the UK, and the project raised £2,600 to add to the total of £17,000 raised in Sheffield overall during the year SI Sheffield ran the project.

A spokeswoman said: "The girls had so much fun and learned lots. They now never take toilets for granted."

"They are delighted to have been educated, empowered and enabled, along with helping girls around the world to do the same."

"SI Sheffield members are delighted to have won the prestigious Yorkshire Soroptimist Mary Hilary Award for 2020."

In these confusing and worrying times, local journalism is more vital than ever. Thanks to everyone who helps us ask the questions that matter by taking out a [digital subscription](#) or buying a paper. We stand together. Nancy Fielder, editor.

This toilet has been  
**Twinned**  
through Soroptimist International Sheffield

with a latrine at

Latitude: 9.81844 Longitude: -3.24597  
Gananadono, Côte d'Ivoire  
Latrine No. 13112

toilet twinning.org

It's 3 people worldwide that have a job. By supporting toilet twinning you are helping fund a Registered Charity Number 205456 (England and Wales) and Number 1090748 (Scotland). www.toilet-twinning.org

This toilet has been  
**Twinned**  
through Soroptimist International Sheffield

with a school block at

Latitude: 16.45383 Longitude: 26.5718  
Chimbiwa, Zambia  
Latrine No. 45502

toilet twinning.org

It's 3 people worldwide that have a job. By supporting toilet twinning you are helping fund a Registered Charity Number 205456 (England and Wales) and Number 1090748 (Scotland). www.toilet-twinning.org

## Our School

### Supporting local communities and charities at Christmas

King Edward VII School is proud to support children, young people, individuals, families and communities at Christmas.

We supported **Cash for Kids**, a charity run by Hallam FM which raises money for kids in Sheffield so they can have a decent Christmas.



We supported **Christmas Jumper Day 2020** on Friday 11 December in support of Save the Children. All the money raised will go to this important organisation.



It was great to see students and staff in amazing jumpers and some seriously christmassy hats too!



Students, staff and parents raised £280 for **Sheffield Children's Hospital Charity**. It has been a difficult year for charities and fundraising because of COVID-19 so it has been great that King Edward VII School has raised some money for important items.



## Our School

We supported the **Saint Thomas' Church Food Bank Appeal 2020** to collect food and other essential items for community members in Sheffield 6.



Over forty boxes of food and other items were donated by students and staff at King Edward VII School. The boxes were collected from the School on Friday 11 December 2020.

A massive thank you to all students and staff for being so caring and generous. Well done!



**Autograph Catering Company**, who provide delicious home made food for students and staff at the Lower School site got in on the act too!

Staff joined in with the Christmas Jumper Day 2020 and they collected items for the local community food bank in Morrison's supermarket. Staff also served over three hundred and twenty Christmas dinners on Wednesday 16 December 2020 at Lower School. Absolutely delicious!



Congratulations to all the Autograph Catering Team for successfully passing an online food allergy and intolerance training assessment on the 5 December 2020: Tracy Gillott, Janet Haywood, Leah Farrell, Alison Mosley, Jodie Ibbotson, Clare Armishaw, Kendal Mitchell and Kerstin Turner!

# Our School

## Upper School Catering Team

The Upper School Catering Team members, who provide fabulous, home cooked, fresh food and meals for Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 students have also celebrated Christmas in style.

They provided an excellent Christmas menu for students, and staff alongside tasty traditional mince pies!



**CHRISTMAS  
MENU**

WEDNESDAY 16TH DECEMBER  
2020



Roast Turkey  
Or Halal Chicken served with a  
Chipolata or  
Festive Quorn Fillet  
Roast Potatoes, Creamed Potatoes  
Yorkshire pudding, Carrots,  
sprouts , Gravy  
Stuffing & Cranberry Sauce



Yule Log or Mince Pies

Student £2.10  
Adult £3.00



# Old Edwardians and Young Edwardians

## Does Alma Still Matter?

### THE SCHOOLS EDUCATING THE NATION'S ELITE:

#### *An analysis of schools featured in Who's Who and Desert Island Discs*

A report by Harriet Blomefield, Head of Education Consultancy, Keystone Tutors

'What is it that really puts the stamp of eminence on a modern British life? Two things count today: having an entry in Who's Who and being asked to choose your eight favourite records on BBC's Desert Island Discs.'

The Wall Street Journal



Harriet Blomefield has recently published this report which reveals that 'one in seven of those who hold society's most powerful positions went to top ten independent schools'. Blomefield questions and explores some of the reasons why this is the case in her report.

Barnaby Lenon, Chair, Independent Schools Council, states in the foreword to the report 'that children from prosperous and successful families who can afford expensive boarding schools are quite likely to be ambitious and have access to networks of friends, family know-how and resources that help them on their way. Some of these schools have always been pretty academically selective and, if they were not in the past, they certainly are now'.

Lenon continues: 'Schools which provide their pupils with a wide range of experiences beyond the classroom are more likely to identify and nurture particular talents'. This is exactly what King Edward VII School provides for our students.

### **The Top 10 Independent Schools listed in Who's Who are:**

- 1 Eton College
- 2 Winchester College
- 3 Harrow School
- 4 Westminster School
- 5 Marlborough College
- 6 Rugby School
- 7 Charterhouse School
- 8 St Paul's Boys' School
- 9 Ampleforth College
- 10 Wellington College

## Old Edwardians and Young Edwardians

This is all very interesting, but what is **brilliant** is the **ranking** of state schools and the position of King Edward VII School - **our** School!

### Top 10 State Schools listed in Who's Who are:

- 1 Reading School
- 2 = King Edward VII School, Sheffield**
- 2 = Cardiff High School
- 4 Aberdeen Grammar School
- 5 Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe
- 6 Royal High School, Edinburgh
- 7 Harrow High School
- 8 = Wimbledon College
- 8 = William Ellis School
- 8 = Lancaster Royal Grammar School
- 8 = Westcliff High School For Boys

Notable former students of King Edward VII School include Emily Maitlis (journalist and BBC news presenter who was featured in the July 2020 newsletter), Harry Epworth Allen (English painter) and Matthew Bannister (Media Proprietor).

If you google 'famous people who attended King Edward VII School, Sheffield' and 'List of Old Edwardians, Sheffield' you will discover an IMPRESSIVE list of former students and their achievements. You can also visit [oldedwardians.org.uk](http://oldedwardians.org.uk) for even more information. Mr John Cornwell, author, historian, former Chair of Governors and the School archivist, could add many more impressive names to the Who's Who list, past and present!

So, to all the current Edwardians, long may the School continue to deliver an excellent education for all and provide exceptional extra curricular experiences to help you to thrive and become successful. And, to the Old Edwardians, we are proud of your achievements, your legacy and your links to your alma mater.

If you would like to receive a copy of the full report, please request a copy by sending an email to [office@kes.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:office@kes.sheffield.sch.uk)

Linda Gooden  
Headteacher



# Our School

## The Coronavirus pandemic

When schools in the UK closed on Friday 20 March 2020 we all entered uncharted waters. Lower School remained open for the children of key workers and vulnerable students. Teaching and learning for everyone else moved online.

Following are some of the experiences, memories, comments and action taken by students, staff and the School.

### Funny things!

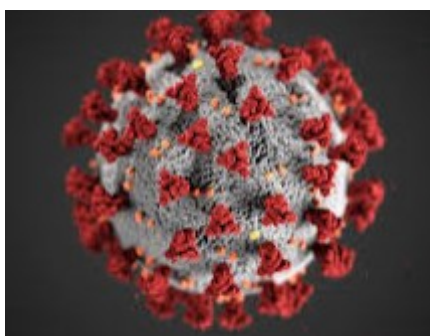
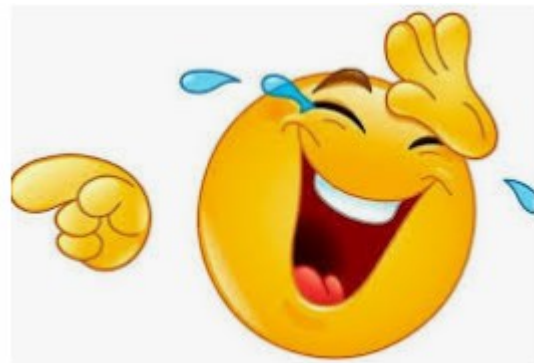
Mrs Kacsprzak shared the following on Saturday 21 March 2020 after her Year 7 Geography lesson with students at Upper School on Friday 20 March 2020. Remember all the Year 7s had a new timetable for the last part of the previous week and had to move to Upper School!

'The Year 7s were lovely on Friday and I really think the lessons helped them keep their minds off the coronavirus. I only heard it mentioned twice but both things that were said were really funny.

One student told me he had made a corona prevention hat - which looked like a cross between a helmet, blinkers and a tunnel! Another student said we would be off School for as long as it takes for the coronavirus to be contained, so we might be off for twenty years!

I also managed to convince some Year 7s that foreheads are named after how many fingers width the gap between your eyebrows and hairline is, so while most people have 'fourheads' it is worth checking if you have a threehead or a fivehead!"

Brilliant, Mrs Kacsprzak!



## Our School

Schools across the City contributed tasks and activities to the Learn Sheffield and the Sheffield Star's Home Learning Weekly Supplement during the spring and summer terms 2020.


King Edward VII School contributed a number of activities for all to pursue, including Drama and History.

### King Edward VII School

**History: How much has the world changed around Captain Tom?**

Captain Tom was born in 1920, he has served in a world war, seen the creation of the NHS and had a number 1 single in the charts to help them. What other changes has he seen?

1. Make a timeline of world events from 1920-2020.
2. Draw some pictures or find some online to represent each decade.
3. Add some key words and/or explanations to show what has changed and what has stayed the same.
4. Think of some interview questions - what would you like to ask Captain Tom about the last 100 years?



## The History Department's contribution to the Home Learning Weekly Supplement

### King Edward VII School

#### Make A Paper Man Puppet!

Need a creative outlet?  
Why not make a 'Gyre and Gimble' Paper Man Puppet?



You could act out a moment from your lockdown life or escape to a fantasy world! Look at these clips for inspiration:

- <https://youtu.be/fLnRCBVNMFc>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D1KXcmFrJW4>

All you need are some large sheets of paper (packaging will do) and some tape or string. Go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pFEnZfS5IXQ> for more details on how to create one.

## The Drama Department's contribution to the Home Learning Weekly Supplement



## Our School

### Supporting the National Health Service

King Edward VII School was proud to support the National Health Service (NHS) during the spring and summer terms 2020.



### Personal Protective Equipment

Staff working in the NHS were struggling to access personal protective equipment (PPE) to keep them safe while working in hospitals.

King Edward VIII School donated safety goggles and approximately three thousand five hundred nitrile gloves.

A massive thank you to Mr William Davey, Teacher of Chemistry, in the Science Department, for making all the necessary arrangements to sort out, collect and deliver the PPE to the NHS on the 8 April 2020 with the support of Mr Craig Jarvis, Buildings Officer.



# Our School

## Free parking for NHS staff at Upper School

The following email exchanges focused initially on the need for parking for NHS staff.

Dear King Edward's

I'm a staff nurse at the Hallamshire, and as I'm sure you know, parking is a nightmare around the hospital.

We're doing lots of overtime at the minute and easy, free parking nearby would greatly ease the stress at the beginning of what is a long, hard day. I would like to ask if you would kindly allow parking at the School from now until the School is reopened.

Many thanks, Lucy (Saturday 21 March 2020)

**The School responded:**

Dear Lucy

Thank you for your email. Linda Gooden, Headteacher, has asked me to let you know that you and your staff from the Hallamshire Hospital are welcome to use the bottom section of the School car park (turn in at the Glossop Road entrance and keep driving ahead, slightly to the left, to the bottom near the swimming pool).

Thank you and best wishes.

Ms J Jackson (PA to the Headteacher) (Monday 23 March 2020)

**Lucy replied:**

Dear Ms Jackson

Thank you so much for getting back in touch. Please could you thank Headteacher Linda Gooden very much for allowing this. I'm am so grateful!

Kind Regards, Lucy

**The Headteacher replied on 27 March 2020:**

Dear Ms Lucy Sayliss

I would like to thank you personally for your email.

You and your colleagues are very welcome to use the School's car park for the foreseeable future and certainly while the School is closed. I know how tricky parking is in the local community!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you and your colleagues for the amazing, essential work that you are doing on behalf of the NHS in Sheffield and in the UK, particularly in relation to the Coronavirus but also every single day of the week every year. Thank you!

Regards  
Linda Gooden

**Lucy's response:**

Dear Ms Linda Gooden

Thank you so much for emailing me personally and thank you for your kind words. It's always so lovely to hear words of support and appreciation at the moment, it really does keep us going. The support we have had has been absolutely overwhelming and I think everyone will come out of this a different person. Well done to you and your staff for supporting the children whose parents are key workers and for everything you re doing to support all your pupils in other ways.

I'm grateful for you allowing me and colleagues to use your car park. I always try and park on the roads close by but it is really useful to know there is another option available in case we are having difficulty. All the best for the weeks ahead and keep safe.

Lucy

## Our School

### Last examination tables set out but never used

The main hall at Upper School was set out, alongside the sports hall and many classrooms, ready for the Year 10, Year 11 and Year 13 examinations in the summer 2020.

It was a poignant moment to see the chairs and desks that would not be occupied by our students this year.



Photograph by Mr Craig Jarvis, Buildings Officer (and resident photographer!)

### The Lockdown Quiz

During lockdown, in an attempt to keep spirits high amongst staff and to raise some money, Mrs Kacsprzak (Curriculum Leader of Geography) and Mrs Clare Creasy (Curriculum Leader for Art, Technology and Engineering) organised a virtual quiz for members of staff all based around the theme "How well do you know KES staff?". Rounds included a photo round called "When they were young" and a "How well do you know your colleagues?"



The winner of the quiz was Ms Rachael Galletly, with special prizes awarded to Mr James Kennedy for terrible knowledge of his colleagues and Mrs Eva Lamb for the cheekiest answer!



The quiz raised a massive £424 (£527 including Gift Aid) for the S6 Food Bank.

Mrs Mary Kacsprzak  
Curriculum Leader for Geography

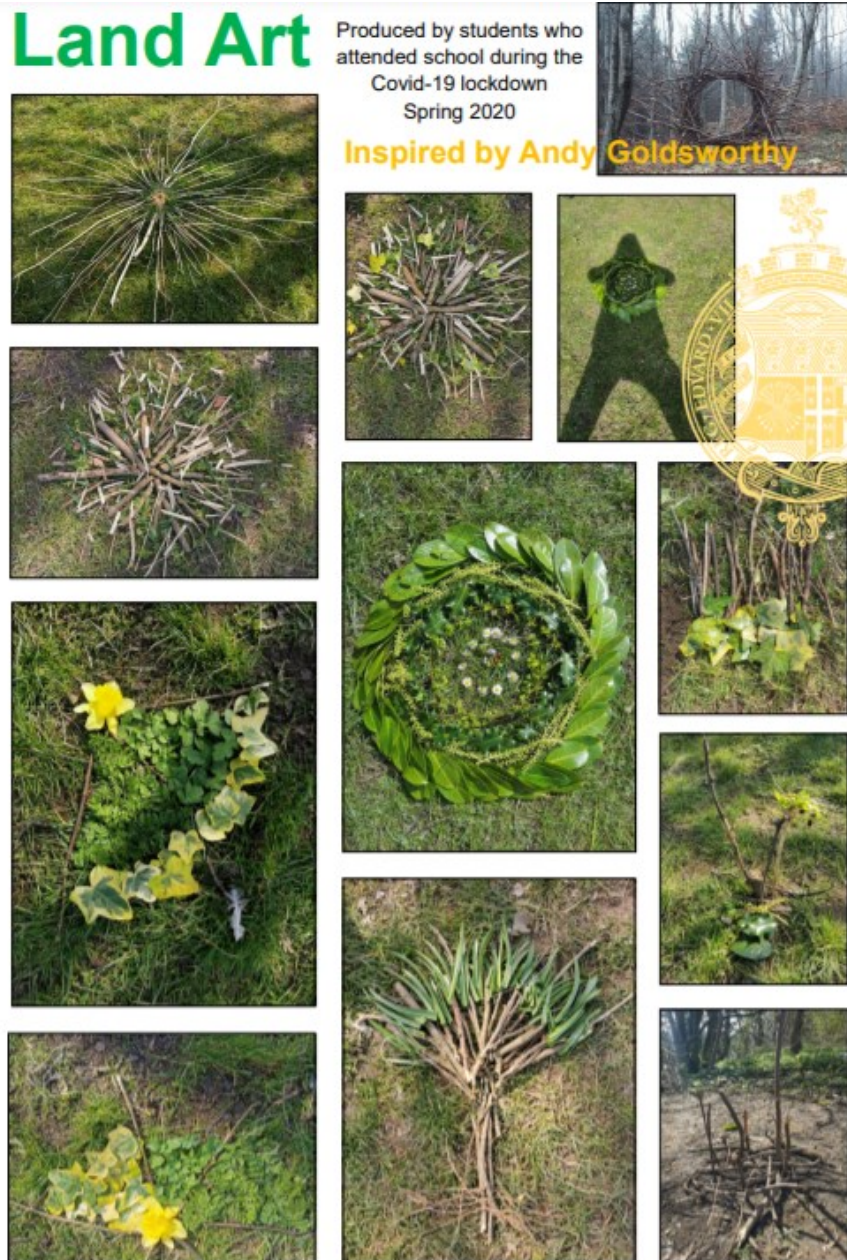
## Our School

### Out of adversity emerges beauty and creativity!

As noted earlier, Lower School remained open throughout the spring and summer terms 2020 for the children of key workers and vulnerable children.

Staff continued to plan and deliver superb lessons and learning opportunities for students. Much of this work and related activities, alongside photographs, were tweeted each day via the School's Twitter account.

Below are some beautiful photographs of the land art that Mrs Fiona Heath, Teacher of Art, completed with students on Tuesday 24 March 2020.



**“We often forget that WE ARE NATURE. Nature is not something separate from us. So when we say that we have lost our connection to nature, we’ve lost our connection to ourselves.” – Andy Goldsworthy**

# Our School

## KES Art Gallery at Upper School - SIGN OF THE TIMES

March 20<sup>th</sup> 2020. Lockdown.

A massive shock to the system. How was this going to work?  
What impact would it have on individuals, communities, health, our relationships, our livelihoods and jobs, our way of life...

Remember that feeling of initial relief.

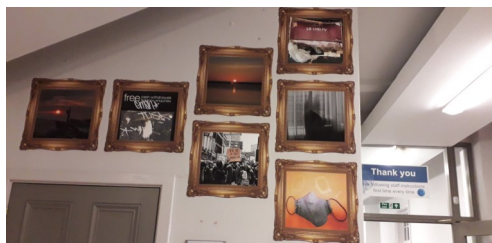
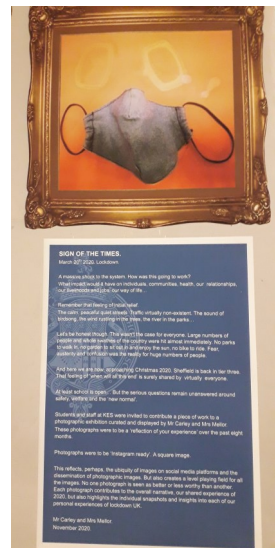
The calm, peaceful quiet streets. Traffic virtually non-existent. The sound of birdsong, the wind rustling in the trees, the river in the parks...

Let's be honest though. This wasn't the case for everyone. Large numbers of people and whole swathes of the country were hit almost immediately. No parks to walk in, no garden to sit out in and enjoy the sun, no bike to ride. Fear, austerity and confusion was the reality for huge numbers of people.

And here we are now, approaching Christmas 2020. Sheffield is back in tier three. That feeling of 'when will all this end' is surely shared by virtually everyone.

At least School is open... But the serious questions remain unanswered around safety, welfare and the 'new normal'.

Students and staff at KES were invited to contribute a piece of work to a photographic exhibition curated and displayed by Mr Carley and Mrs Mellor.



These photographs were to be a 'reflection of your experience' over the past eight months.

Photographs were to be 'Instagram ready'. A square image.

This reflects, perhaps, the ubiquity of images on social media platforms and the dissemination of photographic images, but also creates a level playing field for all the images. No one photograph is seen as better or less worthy than another. Each photograph contributes to the overall narrative, our shared experience of 2020, but also highlights the individual snapshots and insights into each of our personal experiences of lockdown UK.



Mr Carley, Teacher of Art  
Mrs Mellor, Display Technician  
November 2020.

