

King Edward VII School



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NEWSLETTER

March 2017

WELCOME to the second newsletter of the School year.

March is a wonderful time of year because the signs of spring are emerging before our eyes. There is a genuine sense of renewal, energy, vitality and growth.

So many people have been enthralled by the arrival of spring that they were inspired to share their responses. Harriet Ann Jacobs (1813-1897) stated:

“The beautiful spring came; and when Nature resumes her loveliness, the human soul is apt to revive also.”

Or, in the humorous words of the hugely successful Robin Williams,

“Spring is nature’s way of saying, “Let’s party!”

It has been an exceptionally busy year, so far, for the School and this newsletter reflects the relentless energy, commitment and dedication of staff, governors and students to ensure that King Edward VII School continues to grow and be ever more successful.



Remember that you can follow us on Facebook and Twitter!

Warm regards,
Linda Gooden, Headteacher

IMPORTANT DATES

- 4 April—Y12 residential visit to France
- 7 April—End of Spring term
- 24 April—Start of Summer term
- 15 May—First GCSE exam and Y12 study leave commences
- 26 May—Half-term and start of Y13 study leave
- 5 June—School re-opens and start of Y7, Y8 & Y9 exam weeks

Our students (and former students)

Sheffield Youth Cabinet

We are pleased to announce that three of our students were successful in the recent Youth Cabinet Elections. Congratulations to Luke Bassett and Arman Maleki-Dizaji, both Year 11, and Aisha Shoro from Year 12.

Congratulations to **Ploy Doemklang** – the most positive Year 11 student for the Winter term with +65 achievement points



Well done to **Rosie Cockrell** in Year 13 who entered the Mother Tongue Other Tongue Poetry Competition 2016 via Languages Sheffield and the HoLA project and has been awarded Highly Commended Key Stage 5. The Poetry Competition is a multilingual competition that celebrates cultural diversity and the many languages that are spoken and studied across the Yorkshire and Humber region.

Rosie's poem is titled **Four Seasons**.

EAL event

On 11th January we were delighted to take part in a training session for a group of 110 Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) students from the University of Sheffield. A group of 10 English as an Additional Language King Edward VII students were involved in this event and they were excellent.

They had been working on producing a statement about their experience as an EAL learner in our School, including their background, progress they have made so far and their hopes for the future. The students read out their statements to the audience and then answered questions about potential strategies that could be employed to help them learn. The students involved were outstanding and their contribution was very much appreciated by the PGDE students, who commented:

'The most useful and interesting part of the session was listening to EAL students talk about their experience; it is essential to get their perspective.'

Well done and thank you to everyone involved!

Former Student

Congratulations to **Emma Shaw** (leaver 2015) who is flying high at Southampton University. She has been successful in her application to join the University Air Squadron and is now enjoying the basic flying and adventures training provided.



Year 8 BiG Challenge 2017

The BiG Challenge is an enterprise competition open to all secondary schools and colleges in Sheffield.

Congratulations to **Scarf and a Half (Ezzie Nettleingham-Bradley and Ruby Noble pictured)** on being awarded a prize in the BiG Challenge 2017 competition. The team will be attending the Awards Evening on the 5th April 2017 where the overall competition winners of the BiG Trip to Amsterdam will be announced.

Well done to all the teams that took part. We had 8 entries and special mention should also be made of the other finalists, **Moon and Starts Jewellery (Eva Shrimpton, Evelyn Freeman and Amy Jenkins).**

The Deep

Back in December, over two days, 165 of our Year 8 students headed East to Hull to visit *The Deep*, a futuristic aquarium. This annual trip is a great opportunity for our students to encounter animals from marine environments in a very close and immediate setting. As well as the huge tank in the centre of the building which contains sawfish, sharks, grouper and rays, the Gentoo penguins are also popular among the students. You can see the penguins pottering around on foot, but go a little further down and you can see them rocketing around underwater; birds that really “fly” through the water.

We also learnt about “super-animals” that had remarkable superhero talents as part of a lesson that was delivered by Deep staff. During this students were able to handle the nearly indestructible hissing cockroaches.



STEM Clubs

We have had a phenomenally successful year in STEM clubs so far (for those who don't know, STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). On Monday, a large number of Year 7 students meet to carry out experiments, complete challenges and "do Science" with the help of Mr Mansfield and Mr Berry.

On Wednesday one group of Year 9 students are working on a *LEGO Mindstorm* space project with Mrs Clarke. A team of 10 will compete in a regional competition in March. As part of this project they have to build and program a variety of robots that are able to carry out a number of space-related tasks (for example, opening a satellite array).

Also on Wednesday, a group of Year 8 students are working with Mr Fehler on projects of their own choosing, working toward Bronze CREST awards. The projects are eclectic and include projects on quantum levitation, steam engines, Genetic Modification, robots and floating cities!

A group of trainee teachers recently visited our STEM clubs. Below are just some of the positive comments they shared with us:

"The students were a bright young bunch and their enthusiasm for science was great."

"I was really impressed with the enthusiasm and initiative of the pupils. They were obviously passionate about their projects."

"I was very impressed with the pupils' friendly and confident attitudes. They were very welcoming and happy to engage in conversation, showing a keen interest in science."



Students from all of these groups have recently visited Warwick Castle where they took part in a Science fair in the grounds of the castle.

STEM Careers Weeks 2017

Two weeks in February represented a significant opportunity for all of our Year 9 students to investigate STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) careers. At a time when our students are making decisions about what GCSEs they will take in Year 10, they are encouraged in their Science lessons to explore what jobs they might want to do later in life.

In lessons students use ICT, prospectuses and job files to research jobs and consider qualifications. We also run a poster competition where students need to share information about different jobs. There were some big prizes at stake – the first prize is £30 of Cinema vouchers, the second is £20 of Cinema vouchers and the third prize is, you guessed it, £10 of Cinema vouchers. The winners were :

1st Prize—**Amelia Loftus**, 2nd Prize—**Ellen Pinch**, 3rd Prize—**Joely Mynott**

Tess Newbould and **Leela Noon** were also highly commended, and all five students also won a fluffy bacterium!

The highlight of the careers weeks is when our Year 9 students have the chance to interview a variety of people currently doing STEM jobs. This year we had 18 visitors including: an A & E doctor, a forensic scientist, a bone cancer lecturer, an applied statistician, a mechanical design engineer, a midwife, a quantity surveyor, a land negotiator and a health economic modeller among many others. Of the 19 visitors 14 of them were women – which is part of our focus on encouraging all students, but *especially* girls, to consider STEM careers in the future.

Here are a couple of comments we received from the interviewers:

“Really enjoyed this morning. Well organised. Interested pupils. Lots of good, challenging questions. I came away feeling I had inspired a few, and that’s amazing! Really eye-opening to get them thinking about lots of different areas.”

“It was a good experience and I was pleasantly surprised with the politeness of the students and how well so many of them engaged.”



Mr Fehler

Curriculum Leader for KS3 Science

Send my Friend to School

Congratulations to Amy Range and Ellen Withington in Year 9. They have been selected to be Campaign Champions for the organisation Send My Friend To School. This is a global organisation that works in over 100 countries with the aim of meeting the sustainable development goal that education is available for all children up to the age of 15 by 2030.

The selection process started within our School where students were asked to complete an application. We were only allowed to send one application per school and Amy and Ellen's was chosen. This was then sent off to the Global Campaign for Education (GCE) for UK. They passed this stage and the GCE

were very impressed with their application. They then had to complete a 30 minute video conference interview (which as you can imagine was very daunting!).

They will be attending a training weekend in Leicestershire and will be expected to organise at least one campaign event in School to raise awareness and I know they are keen to do more. They will also be invited to attend an event at the Houses of Parliament in June to top off this year's campaign.

Mrs Garside



David Byrne, Year 11—well done on your continued Cross Country success

Congratulations to **Ed (Year 12) and Niamh (Year 10) Morton** who have been chosen to represent Great Britain in the Cycle Speedway World Championships in Adelaide, Australia later this year. They will be riding for the Junior Team and Women's Team respectively. This is a real honour and a reflection of their hard work and dedication over the years. Ed is the current silver medal holder for both the under 16 outdoor and indoor national championships and Sheffield under 16 champion. Niamh is the current northern and Sheffield women's champion. In 2015 Niamh was awarded a special award from Sheffield Federation of School Sports for her commitment to cycle speedway.

Our Year 11 football team finally met their match in a competitive contest against Cardinal Heenan Catholic Sports College from Liverpool, eventually going down 2-0. The team did exceptionally well, progressing to the 7th Round (last 16) of the National Cup competition, following a 3—0 home victory earlier in the term against Wright Robinson College from Manchester.

Our Manager, Mr Kavanagh (the Special One!) was delighted with the overall performance of success of the team. We believe this is our most successful Year 11 team in terms of progress in the National competition.

In January, **Sam Davey**, a Year 11 student at King Edwards represented Yorkshire in the Boys Under 17 squash team (5 boys, pictured) in the inter-county national final. The annual inter-county competition started in October and culminated in the finals weekend. The finals had the last four teams from all of the counties of the UK as well as a team from Leinster, Ireland.

The Yorkshire U17 Boys finished runners-up, losing to Sussex 3-2 in the final. Hampshire and Warwickshire were third and fourth. Each of the Yorkshire team were 15 years old or younger, giving them a great chance of winning the U17 tournament next year.

To get county selection was especially

difficult given the depth of talent within the county and was reward for Sam's years of dedication to the squash.

Sam has been a member of the Hallamshire Squash and Tennis Club, for 7 years. At the club he is currently receiving a scholarship and is a member the *Nick Matthew Elite Academy*. He typically trains 6 days a week in Sheffield, Pontefract and Manchester and spends many weekends at squash tournaments around the country. He has already played at Premier League level for the top adult team in the Hallamshire Club.

For any juniors interested in squash, they should consider giving it a try at the Hallamshire Squash and Tennis Club. There are beginners' sessions available at weekends and the coaches are very welcoming and encouraging.



An evening at KESJam 2017

Review by Ruth Goldacre, Year 13

As the audience filtered through the impressive entrance into our Upper School hall, the excitement was unbearable. Courtesy of Craig Jarvis, a pair of enormous flashing neon headphones were suspended above an extensively kitted out stage, with which Mr. Doubleday was tinkering. Bright stage lights illuminated the space, anticipating the musical stars of KES that it was about to flaunt.

Following an energetic introduction from Lois Pearson and Evie Cook (Y13) that involved a conspicuous game of 'Speak Out' (where our hosts clamped their mouths open and performed risible renditions of Arctic Monkeys' 'Mardy Bum' and Spice Girls' 'Wanna Be') the evening was already off to a superb start.

Kicking off the acoustic category of the night was an awe-inspiring blues tune by piano and vocal duo Louisa Rhodes and Rachel Haw (Y12) who were succeeded by Robyn Green (Y11), who performed a spirited cover of 'Wait for It' from the musical Hamilton. Next up, we had Robyn Gair (Y13) performing her own song 'Mary' whose astonishing vocal range is that akin to a female Vance Joy.



Mayibongwe Dube above (Y12) then performed a magnificent cover of the classic Muse tune 'Feeling Good'. For some of these artists, it was one of the first times they had played to such a large crowd and they were received warmly with cheers, smiles and a rapturous round of applause.

Ruby Williams (Y13) who has previously entertained the audiences of YNOT festival and is a regular face at Peddler's Market, demonstrated a skilful, moving cover of 'Youth' by Daughter, which the judges described as 'super confident' and 'stuff I could listen to all evening'. So when she modestly accepted her award for the 'Best Acoustic Act', it was clear they really were utterly enamoured.

We were enthralled by the bubbly Ella Thompson (Y12), whose sassy rendition of 'New York' by Paloma Faith was extremely powerful; her voice is mature beyond her years and it was no surprise when her confident persona and velvety voice was awarded 'Best Singer'. The judges were speechless and could only ask Ella 'to see you again'.

Then came George Johnson (Y13), the cheeky front man of the well-known indie band Fairbarn. George heroically stepped in to cover for a missing act and charmed us with an accomplished acoustic cover of Fairbarn's own song 'Distance'. The catchy chorus is sure to be a hit one day, so watch this space – I am certainly hooked. Mary Wilcock (Y13) then took to the stage with, low and behold, a harp. Certainly a KESjam first! She inspired us with her effortless combination of soulful singing and perfect playing of 'Rather Be'; it was superb. Last Year's Winner Melissa Bako (Y12) then effortlessly performed 'Sandcastles' by Beyoncé in which her forte of gospel singing shone through.

After a short interval, the ambience of the room altered as the chairs were cleared to form a dancefloor and we waited impatiently for the first band Citrus Shapes (some of our youngest performers in Y10, Joe Tipping and Ed Lee) to come centre stage. The garage band's euphoria electrified the room and it wasn't long until even the most reluctant of audience members were dancing. The next band Underground Mazes (comprising Rachel Haw, Pablo Binch Calvo, Patch Crossley and Milo Dixon, all Y12) were praised by the judges for their composure and the way they involved the audience in their music

To close the show, we were spoilt with an adrenaline filled spectacle from Cover Up (Estelle Varley and Johnny Butler, Y11), the machine like drums, guitar and vocals duo who are masters of their craft; even a broken string did not phase them. Their 'great punk attitude' when performing the classic Beatles anthem 'Come Together' is perhaps what won them the title of 'Best Band'.

Being in the audience was a magical experience. In part because the performers were incredibly talented, but more so because so many families and friends attended – in short the evening felt like we had morphed into one giant ball of energy with the sole purpose of celebrating music.

A huge thank you to the efforts of all teachers who gave up their time to make this extraordinary event possible, but with particular gratitude towards Mr Musgrove, Mr Doubleday and Mrs Doran who attentively worked with the acts from initial audition to the final performance, enhancing their vocal capabilities, strengthening their performance techniques whilst improving their confidence.

School drama production

Review by Louisa Rhodes, Year 12

'Antigone', one of the great tragedies by Sophocles, was performed for three nights at the beginning of February this year. The combined efforts of the whole cast and crew, directed by Mrs Warde, culminated in a stunning production exploring love, loyalty, pride and fate.

Opening with the death of Antigone and Ismene's two brothers, the story weaves through conflict and power, and ultimately death, in an enormously engrossing way. The writing alone is a brilliant example of its genre and a very good one for audience members less familiar with traditional tragedies. But it was the enthralling nature of the production that brought it to life. The performance partially modernised aspects thoughtfully, most noticeably through the costumes and staging. Performed 'in the round', the audience sat at the four sides of a square that became the stage, viewable from any direction. This absorbing and intense environment only added to the overall effect; even sat on the back row, you felt as though the characters were addressing you directly.



From the opening scene of a fragile Ismene, played by Eleanor Gillis in Y11, to the glorious outbursts from the ladies in waiting all of the cast truly put in the hours to produce something they should be very proud of. Stand out performances were from Daniel Brimcombe and Hannah Lydon, both Y12, with their portrayals of Creon and Antigone respectively, fighting it out in impassioned arguments over law and the divine. But that is not forgetting the rest of the fantastic cast, without whom there would have been no show; the actors brought depth and life to the play far beyond what anyone anticipated.

Music and lighting were used skilfully by the crew. A few props aided the action, but in fact it was the simplicity and lack of overcomplication that complemented the performances and allowed the story to move and develop.

Ultimately, the production of 'Antigone' (or 'Ant Gone', as it had become lovingly known as due to the contemporary poster design) was a force to be reckoned with, filling the Lower School hall on almost every night. Arguably, three nights was far too few for this outstanding display of student talent and hard work, along with the staff who gave up their time to help bring the play to life. And to anyone who was unable to come – you have truly missed something special.

Our governors

We have a very active Governing Body which has taken every opportunity to be involved in the life of the School. They have attended after School events, drop-in sessions with the Headteacher, met with groups of staff on two occasions, had regular feedback from our students, as well as attending Full Governing Body and Sub-Committee meetings with the Headteacher and other staff. For this edition, we profile one of our governors, Mr John Parr.

John Parr is a former pupil at King Edward VII School having entered the School as one of the last 'eleven-plus' examination pupil entrants in 1968. As one of the final grammar school intake, his time at King Edward VII School bore witness to the steady transition from a traditional 'grammar' school education to the comprehensive education offered to the pupils of today.



Achieving somewhat more success musically and on the sporting field than academically, John left the school in 1975 and joined the South Yorkshire Police. Retiring in 2008, holding the rank of Detective Superintendent, he attended the University of Sheffield; with the benefit of hindsight, something he should have done thirty years earlier!

A fervent supporter of the School, John is a firm believer that each and every student owes a great deal to the School and to the time and commitment invested in all by those whose guidance is critical through their period of education, no matter however successful that may have been.

Since 2013, John has also been President of the Old Edwardians' Association, the body that represents the Alumni of the School and it is his desire to see the Old Edwardians' Association become a much closer supporter of the School in all its aims and ambitions.

There is undoubtedly amongst the School's number, both current and past, a plethora of talent and skills which he believes must be harnessed to support the staff and pupils as they move forward in what are today, very difficult times.

A former player for Sheffield RUFC and cricketer with the Old Edwardians C.C. and Sheffield Collegiate C.C., he is still a keen rugby union and cricket devotee.

If you would like to know more about the Old Edwardians Association please have a look at www.oldedwardians.org.uk

OLD EDWARDIAN AWARDED THE LEGION d'HONNEUR

We have learned of the sad death of Eric Allsop, a former student who was recently awarded the Legion d'honneur.

Here John Cornwell, author of Another Generation, talks about his achievements.

Eric Allsop was at the School from 1935-40 and has recently been awarded France's highest award, the Legion d'honneur. He is one of a number of British ex-servicemen who have been given this honour because they are veterans of the D-Day landings and the subsequent critical and bitterly contested campaign in Normandy. The Order was established by Napoleon in 1802 and British veterans have been eligible for the award since 2014

Early on the morning of 6th June 1944 Sapper E. Allsop of the Royal Engineers was one of the first men ashore on Juno Beach, as the Canadians assaulted the Normandy coast. His task was to defuse mines attached to the tank traps and make the beach safe for the following infantry and armoured units.

Eric Allsop served throughout the 1944-45 campaign in North West Europe, came home to Sheffield, became well known in local cricket circles and still lives within a mile of King Edward VII School.

During the Sheffield Blitz in December 1940 when Eric Allsop was still at school, he ran messages on his bicycle for the ARP and for three hours helped to put out fires and rescue people from bombed houses while the bombs were still falling. Then, when he finally got home to Nether Edge he found his own home had been seriously damaged by a bomb. For his fortitude that night he was presented with a special commendation by King George VI himself.

John Cornwell



In the community

Inspiring Youth Award – Y10

The Inspiring Youth Award, run in conjunction with South Yorkshire Police, is a fantastic scheme that King Edward VII students have been involved with from the very beginning. For the award students produce a folder or portfolio in any creative style with evidence supporting a range of categories. This year 23 Y10 students celebrated the successful completion of the award at a fantastic award ceremony attended by students, families and KES staff at St Paul's Hotel in Sheffield.

Mathew Bikoumou-Kiese and Junior Koroma launched the evening with a speech about their experience of completing the award and then the prizes and certificates began to flow! King Edward students were very successful and a number have been invited on exclusive visits which include a tour with the Master Cutler around Cutlers Hall (Emily Holmes), visit to The Law Courts (Lady O Mensah) and a VIP day with South Yorkshire Police (James E Kemp, Osamah Al Yahari, Pragnya Alla, Ahmed Mohammed, Mathew Bikoumou – Kiese, Mykyle Ahmed). Two KES students won a VIP trip to The House of Westminster in London which has been organised by Lord David Blunkett (Jade Beachell and Junior Koroma).

A special mention must go to Kim Wilson who was also awarded A Chief Constables Commendation for her services supporting the young people of KES since the scheme started in 2005.

Pragnya Alla's reflection on the IYA:

“At the beginning I was really excited to do the IYA because I had never done anything like it before and was thrilled by the creative aspect of it. I started to collect evidence , hours were being spent cutting out and decorating my folder, but it seemed like nothing at all was in it. I almost gave up. I am really glad that I continued because I received a Gold Award for my efforts at the Awards Ceremony. Doing the IYA has given me something unique to put on my CV for Sixth Form and University and will help me stand out from the crowd.

I couldn't have done any of this without the help of my teacher Mrs. Wilson who, even after retirement, came into to school to do regular drop-in sessions offering her continued support. I enjoyed doing the Inspiring Youth Award so much that I have now signed up to do the Level 2 Award.”

Parental Engagement Partnership—Headteacher's drop-in meeting dates

Thursday 4 May 2017 – Walkley Primary School, Burnaby Crescent, Sheffield
6pm-7pm

Thursday 22 June 2017 – William Sutton Community Centre, 14 Dunella Road,
Hillsborough, Sheffield 6pm-7pm

Reminder – there is a dedicated email address for the PEP should you wish to get involved with the PEP: PEP@kes.sheffield.sch.uk

Other news

The School has established a charity called “King Edward VII School Fund” which is registered with the Charity Commission ref. no. 1163431

The **purpose** of the charity is:

To advance the education of pupils attending King Edward VII School in Sheffield, and to further such charitable purposes (charitable under English Law) for the benefit of the community around King Edward VII School in Sheffield as the Trustees see fit, in particular, but not exclusively, by providing funds or assisting in the provision of funds in support of facilities and services which are not required to be provided by the Local Authority.

If you would like to help the charity then you can **donate** or undertake **sponsored activities** on our behalf. If you wish to donate and are a UK Tax Payer please use the links to the **Gift Aid** forms on the School website.

Outdoor Spaces at Lower School

We are looking to develop the outdoor space at Lower School to enhance the overall environment and provide improved facilities for students at break and lunchtime. We hope to provide a mix of leisure spaces and areas for students to be more active, including benches, extra seating, sports equipment and artificial pitch areas.

Thank you to those parents who have already contributed to this project. If anyone else is able to help, either with time, expertise or finance, then please contact Mr Creedon at Lower School.

Watch out for more details about our plans and our fundraising activities in the near future.

KS3 Student Passes

Student passes have been issued to all Lower School students recently. These passes will help us to ensure that the right students are entering the dining hall during the correct sitting for their year group. Students will show their card to the member of staff on duty and each card is colour co-ordinated to a particular year group. This will help stop students using the dining hall at the wrong times and increasing the queuing time for those students who are on the correct sitting.