



# King Edward VII School



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## NEWSLETTER December 2023

Welcome to first School newsletter of 2023-2024

As we approach the end of the autumn term 2023, it is wonderful to reflect upon some of the School's achievements and successes which include ensuring that teachers and support staff receive highly effective professional development via the implementation of our Continuing Professional Development Plan 2023-2024. The first formal meeting of the Parents' Forum took place on Wednesday 29 November 2023 and student ambassadors are playing an even greater role in School life, including providing one to one reading support for younger students and organising important events.



In this bumper edition of our newsletter you will gain deeper insight into the history of our School via the contributions of an Old Edwardian, Timothy Baylis, on pages 44 and 45 and John Cornwell's informative article on King Edward VII School 'Going Comprehensive' on pages 38 - 40.

The achievements of students, staff and the School community as a whole stand proud on every page! Read about the most recent work of Soroptimist International Sheffield on pages 9 and 10. Applaud our students for their achievements in so many areas such as drama, different sporting activities and partnership work with various organisations. See, for example, page 33 and the article on 'Getting into Medicine Workshop.'

We hope you enjoy reading all the articles in this 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

- Term starts: Monday 8 January 2024 until Thursday 8 February
- Thursday 11 January 2024 - Year 9 Parents' Consultation Evening
- Friday 9 February 2024 - Staff Training Day – School closed to students
- Monday 12 February 2024 – Friday 16 February 2024 – Half term break – School closed
- Monday 19 February 2024 – School reopens to students
- Thursday 28 March 2024 - School closes for the Easter holiday
- Monday 15 April 2024 - School reopens to students



# Our Students

## Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award

Well done to all the DofE Gold students for successfully completing their expeditions in Scotland. All students showed huge determination to persevere through the tough weather conditions. The fantastic teamwork made it a memorable and enjoyable experience for all. Massive thanks to all the staff who supported the students and made it possible.

Ms S. Hancock





## Our Students

### Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award continued ...



## Big Challenge

Amber Hendy from SISK construction is one of our Big Challenge business advisors. She gave 100 of our Lower School students valuable advice on marketing their products for the Big Challenge .

Mrs K. Proost  
Key Stage 3 Leader





# Our Students

## Sheffield Wednesday Football Club (SWFC) Visit

It was a lovely afternoon here at KES on Tuesday 7 November 2023. Our Key Stage 3 students had a surprise visit from Sheffield Wednesday Football Club players Dishon Bernard and Micheal Smith.

Our students had the opportunity to meet them and ask questions about their careers and aspirations for the future.

Our students have been engaging with SWFC SAFE TASK group led by Remma Williams which has enabled our students to overcome barriers to learning in School.

Thank you to SWFC for this fantastic day.



Mr Jackson and Mrs Proost





## Our Students

### King Edward VII School Creative Writing Competition 2023

The English Department was thrilled to receive so many interesting entries for the King Edward VII School Creative Writing Competition this year. Thank you to all of you!

Each student was asked to write a short story of no more than a thousand words. However, they could write about anything. Some spectacular stories were created! The entries covered a range of different subjects and circumstances, but a common strength of many of our writers this year was the ability to create a really suspenseful atmosphere for the reader. We very much enjoyed reading all the entries and would encourage every one of you to keep using your extensive writing talent in the future.

#### The Winner 2023

Out of the many entries, this year's King Edward VII School Creative Writing Competition was won by **Izzy Snelson of 13VM**. Congratulations, Izzy! Izzy's writing (a speculative and philosophical contemplation on writing and life itself!) was captivating and brilliantly concise. Izzy's a great talent and should be highly commended for her story telling ability!

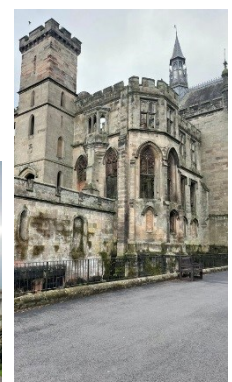
#### Runner up category:

The range of entries were so strong we had to acknowledge the potential and ability of our runner up, **Sylvia Pumphrey 9P2** whose eerie story was full of wonderfully evocative descriptions. Well done!



### Alton Towers Reward Trip

600 students enjoyed their reward trip to Alton Towers in September 2023 and thankfully the weather was lovely and the park was quiet!





## Our Students

### Christmas Card Competition Winners

Each year we pride ourselves on the King Edward VII School Christmas Card competition. We always enjoy seeing all these amazing entries from our wonderful students who across all year groups make such spectacular efforts to create beautiful, original designs for us to send out to special recipients across Sheffield.

This year has seen a great number of entries that were shortlisted to a small number of entries across the school for our Headteacher to select overall winners from.

Mrs Mellor then takes the designs and spends time preparing them for printing and completing with our logo and information on the artists on the back of the card design.

We are so lucky that we have such talented and enthusiastic children in our school that want to participate.

There are always several competitions running throughout the year for students to enter in the Art and Design Department.

If you are interested in entering look in the weekly bulletin and get involved!

Mrs C Creasy



King Edward VII School

**Christmas Card Competition Winners 2023**

**Congratulations!**



The five winners have had their designs printed onto card and given out as the official King Edward VII School Christmas Cards 2023.

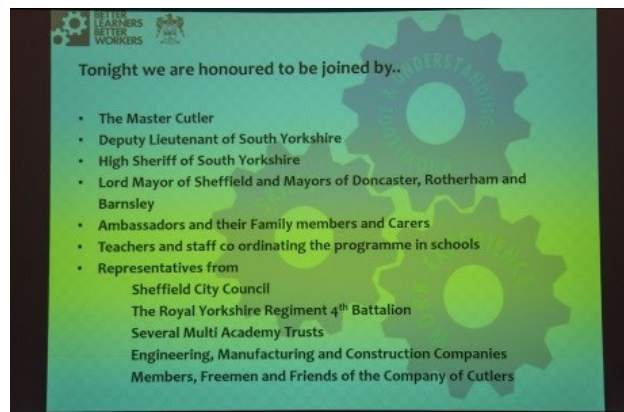


# Our Students

## Better Learners Better Workers Graduation Ceremony



Mrs Proost was pleased to accompany the Cutlers' Ambassadors to the Cutlers' Hall for their graduation ceremony on 22 November 2023 where they received wonderful framed certificates from the Master Cutler Dame Julie Kenny with a gift of a Sheffield stainless steel spoon.





## Our Students

### Year 13 Certificate Presentation

**19 December 2023**

We had a fabulous evening with the Ex-Year 13 students on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2023. Nearly 130 students visited School along with their parents and carers. The hall was packed with nearly 250 people as we celebrated their exam successes from last summer and awarded the subject prizes. Some of these subject prizes date back to the time of the Sheffield Royal Grammar School which was one of the schools that amalgamated to become King Edward VII School in 1905!

It was lovely to catch up with students who have just had an exciting first term away from KES. Some are on a gap year or have just started an apprenticeship. Many are living as independent adults having just had a few months at university. We really appreciated those who sought out staff to share their appreciation of their time in the Sixth Form and efforts of all their teachers to support them with their studies.

Some found it hard to move on as there were several groups of students catching up with friends by playing chess in library gone 8pm!

### Y11 Leavers' Certificate Evening

**7 December 2023**

All enjoyed a fantastic evening on Thursday at the Year 11 Leavers' Certificate Presentation event. Thank you to Old Edwardian Emily Maitlis for the inspirational words shared with students. Well done to Year 12 students Maisie, Lily and Jana who gave superb performances on the night.



## Our Students



## Taking Action to end Violence against Women and Girls

The winning entry by Leo Wainwright, Y7

By Mrs E. Lamb, Curriculum Development MFL

This term students and staff from King Edward VII School decided to support Soroptimist International (SI) Sheffield's activities in support of the United Nation's 16 Days of Action against Gender-Based Violence. The United Nation's UNiTE campaign utilises the colour orange to represent a brighter future, free from violence against women and girls, as a unifying theme running through all of its global activities. The 16 Days of Action run from **November 25<sup>th</sup>** (the United Nations Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) to **December 10<sup>th</sup>** (Human Rights Day). It is an international campaign initiated by the United Nations that runs and encourages action and awareness against all forms of violence against women and girls.

SI Sheffield is the local club of Soroptimist International, a global volunteer movement which works to advance the status of women, helping them to achieve their individual and collective potential, realise aspirations and have an equal voice in creating strong, peaceful communities worldwide.



The current President of SI Sheffield is King Edward VII's former Head of RE, Sue Godley, and several of current staff are members of the Club. Girls from the Sixth Form have been involved in SI Sheffield's activities for many years, supporting for example the Toilet Twinning Campaign, the Snowdrop Project and local charities like "Mums in Need".

This term the Art Department at King Edward VII School was involved in the "Orange the World" Poster Competition where young people were encouraged to design a poster to raise awareness of Gender-Based Violence. Our students did us proud: out of the many excellent entries that were received both the winner and the runner-up came from King Edward VII School! The winners were honoured by the Lady Mayoress of Sheffield in a prize giving ceremony at Tupton Hall, which was attended by their families and members of SI Sheffield.



# Our Students



Leo Wainwright, 7L1, winner of the “Orange the City” Poster Competition with the Lady Mayoress of Sheffield, Susan Ross, and Sue Godley, President of SI Sheffield.



Runner-up George McCarthy, 7P2, and his winning poster

The posters have been published in Sheffield City Council’s newsletter and are now on display around shops and businesses in Broomhill, having been distributed by SI Sheffield members and girls from the KES Sixth Form.



KES Y12 students and President Sue Godley on their mission to raise awareness of Gender-Based Violence

## Our Students

### Y9/10 Study Visit to Austria

Mrs E. Lamb, Curriculum Development MFL

#### Our popular Austria trips are back!

After several years when the pandemic prevented us from enjoying this lovely country in the heart of Europe, a group of Y9 and Y10 students arrived on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023 in St Gilgen in the lake district of Upper Austria.



Arrived! Our group in front of the Youth Hostel

They spent five sunny days packed with activities and new experiences, seeing magnificent scenery and visiting exciting places. They did not just expand their knowledge of the German language but also their horizons and took part in activities that were new and sometimes challenging.

Below are some accounts in the students' own words.

*Austria was so worth it! During my time there I made new friends, even with people I had never spoken to before. I wish we were there one more day. I miss the place and the views and the mountains. My favourite bit was definitely the swimming in the lakes. If only the lakes in the UK were that clear!*

*I would definitely recommend going with school as there are so many things to do. Frau Lamb is the best teacher ever for taking us and my German has improved so much from just a couple of days. It was really put to the test when some German children on the floor below told us to go inside from the storm and rain.*

*Miquelle, Y9*

*Austria will be one of my favourite memories of all time!*

*We swam in the lake, got a train up into the mountains, went in the Salt Mines, and walked round the largest castle in Europe. We went tobogganing and it was so fun!*

*I would definitely go back to Austria, just to re-live them 5 days again!*

*Brogan, Y9*

*Österreich ist das beste Land in der Welt – Frau Lamb hatte natürlich recht!*

*Lucy, Y9*



# Our Students



Morning view of our lake



In Hallstatt – easily the most lovely village in Europe!



Lily and Esmé enjoying the view.



Following in the footsteps of the Trapp Family



View from the Fortress



Falling in love with Salzburg



## Our Students

### Y8 History workshop led by The University of Sheffield students

In October four Y8 classes enjoyed a workshop led by students from The University of Sheffield in one of their History lessons.

The workshop looked at a graphic novel, Quaco, about a young boy enslaved by the Dutch in Suriname. Quaco was a real-life enslaved African who is mentioned in the records left by Dutch-Scottish army officer John Gabriel Stedman.

His story has been reconstructed in the graphic novel Quaco as part of The University of Sheffield project which aims to move away from a Euro-centric approach to colonial history.

In the workshop our Y8 students read some of the graphic novel and tried to imagine how they would have felt in Quaco's situation as he was taken away from his home in Ghana to a plantation in Suriname.

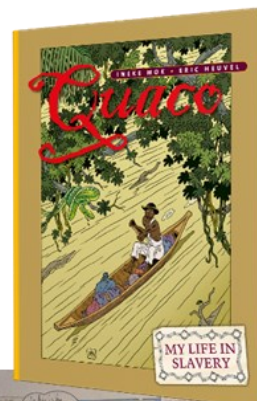
They completed captions on a page taken from the graphic novel to show what they thought Quaco would be thinking as he arrived at the plantation. They also had a go at translating and speaking Dutch which they managed very well!

This half term Y8 History students will be learning more about the transatlantic trade in enslaved African people in their lessons as we study the enquiry "How did sugar transform the Early Modern World?" so this workshop was a fantastic introduction to an important issue for those students who were able to take part.

The University students who led the session have donated two copies of the graphic novel to the school which will be in the Lower School library for anyone interested in reading more.

The University of Sheffield regularly contact us with things to get involved in and so we will be excited to have more opportunities for other students to share with you soon.

Mrs J. Brown, Second in History



### Y9 Cutlers' Ambassadors

Year 9 Cutlers' Ambassadors enjoyed a visit to Sheffield Forgemasters and were able to visit key areas of the massive and impressive site. Huge thanks to all involved with the visit. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed it.

Mrs K. Proost  
Key Stage 3 Leader





## Our Students

### Drama Club

The Drama Club has had a fantastic term, filled with creativity and fun! This term, the Drama Club has been a refreshing change of pace from regular lessons, giving students a chance to explore their artistic side in a relaxed and friendly environment.

Here are what the students had to say about the club:

*"You make loads of new friends and feel part of the group straight away"*

*"You can do anything you want without being embarrassed"*

*"You get to be yourself"*

Keep up the great work, drama club!

The club meets at Lower School every Monday (Y7 group) and Thursday (Y8/9 group) from 3-4pm. Everyone Welcome!

Miss O'Farrell, Drama and Music Technician



### Music

The Winter Showcase is just around the corner, and students have been busy rehearsing!

The School orchestra is a great chance to develop your musical talent, have fun and perform for your friends and family. If you have a passion for music and want to take your skills to the next level, join us at orchestra!

Here's why our current group of students enjoy:

*"It makes me feel like I'm playing music for a reason"*

*"I like how it brings lots of different people together"*

*"It's fun!"*

*"You get to perform and show your parents what we've been doing"*



Join us for this year's Winter Showcase on December 20th. We look forward to seeing you there!

If you're interested in joining a music after school club, please see below for details:

- Monday, 3 - 4pm: Folk Group at Upper School
- Wednesday, 3 – 4pm: Orchestra at Upper School
- Thursday, 11:30-12pm: Y7 choir at Lower School
- Thursday, 3 - 4pm: Orchestra at Lower school
- Friday, 3 - 4pm: Orchestra at Lower School

Miss O'Farrell, Drama and Music Technician

## Our Students

### Participation Project with Sheffield Theatres

Y10 and Y12 drama students collaborated with Sheffield Theatres to produce a unique performance inspired by the theatre's show: *The Hypochondriac*.

Following a trip to see the show, the students attended workshops in devising, the style and form of the play and costume design all leading to them creating their own plays inspired by the themes, characters and comedic style of the play.

The students embraced the fast, farcical style of the piece, working to develop their skills in the challenging style of Comedia del Arte to create insane yet believable characters, crazy plot twists and highly imaginative performances.



Y10 developed a fast paced, comedy called 'La Vedette du YouTube Imaginaire' about a girl who believes she is living her life as part of a reality TV show complete with plotting evil sibling, fake psychiatrists, a mad estate agent and a very vague Mother! Y12 created a hilarious farce centred around the battle for the inheritance of a dying man with an evil ex-wife, useless stepdaughter, dippy dangerous nurse and the mystery woman disguised as a lampshade as some of their incredible characters! Following a day of technical and dress rehearsals at The Crucible our final performance was on the main stage of the Crucible on the magnificent set of 'The Hypochondriac'.

We were delighted that the cast of 'The Hypochondriac' came to see our performance and were so complementary about the show, spending time talking to us and of course posing for photos.

This is the third year running we have taken part in this project, and it has been another really fantastic start to the Y10 and Y12's courses. Well done to Y10 and Y12 Drama students – a truly inspiring achievement.

Miss O'Farrell, Drama and Music Technician

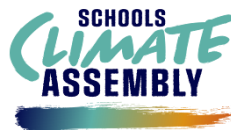




## Our Students

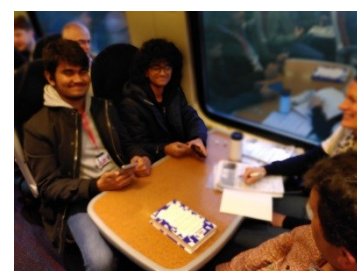
### Schools' Climate Assembly

*King Edward VII School hosted the second annual School's Climate Assembly in 2022. As a follow up to the work already taking place, a group of our students travelled to the third assembly to find out more!*



On Thursday 19th October, a group of our students travelled to Birmingham for the annual Schools' Climate Assembly. It was an early one, with the train to Birmingham departing before 7am. One student said, "Although the day involved an early start, from the off it was enjoyable."

As the day commenced, we listened to a discussion with Chris Packham and Scarlett Westbrook (a nationally recognised students climate policy advisor to all political parties) being interviewed by the event's founder. They discussed where they find their drive to fight what can at times seem like an unwinnable battle and started the day by impressing on us all the need for hope.



Shortly after the talk, everyone at the event was sent to various workshops with different aims. Our group had an informative lesson in power and its distribution, with one student stating, "I learnt about power dynamics within aspects of our everyday lives," and another noting, "Lots of the global warming that affects us is caused by large corporations."



Once we had done our first workshop, everyone gathered in the main tent for what seemed to be the highlight of the day – Chris Packham. Having been introduced by two actors pretending to be representatives of large, climate ignorant companies, Chris Packham took to the stage to deliver his message. Clearly, it had an effect on our students, with one saying, "it gave me brilliant insight into the misinformation that can be spread surrounding the climate emergency," and another impressed by Chris' speaking skills - "he is a fantastic mobiliser and public speaker."

Having listened to Chris' wisdom, everyone split off again into the second round of workshops for the day. Our group witnessed how different actions we could take would affect the climate crisis, with many being shocked at the vast array of actions needed to make a significant impact. One student commented on "how vital it is that we don't focus all our energy in one area and instead fight for action on multiple fronts."



## Our Students

With the workshops done for the day, everyone returned to the main tent to end the day and hear The World Cup of Campaigns, in which students from the host school created four campaigns they thought could help fix the climate crisis. Each team had an expert to help them whilst tough questions from the audience sought to discover any flaws in their plans. This struck one student who said, "I really enjoyed the speeches from the activists and the experts, they were very inspiring and informative, and they showed just how much change a single person can make." Students then voted on which campaign was the strongest.



The World Cup of Campaigns marked the end of our day at the Schools' Climate Assembly, but it has left an impression on many students. The integral theme of the day was maintaining a hope that things can change, even against the toughest adversaries, and instilling that in our young people seems to be our greatest hope for a better future.



*Report by Fraser McInally Y11*

## Never Look Back theatre workshop led by John Rwothomack

On Monday 16<sup>th</sup> of October 2023 John Rwothomack (from the Mbili Theatre Company) came into School to lead a workshop based on his new play 'Never Look Back' which explored the overlooked story of East African Soldiers participation in the British Army during WW2. The workshop focused on the themes of British identity, empire and migration (which make up a crucial part of their GCSE course) in a unique and interesting way. During the workshop the students sang traditional East African songs, read out different scenes from the play, and had an in-depth discussion about what the scenes revealed about the colonisation of East Africa and its legacy today.

The students who attended the workshop were then invited to the first workshop performance of the play in the Crucible Theatre and were supplied with free tickets. The night was well attended, and the students loved it.



Mr C Galloway, Second in History

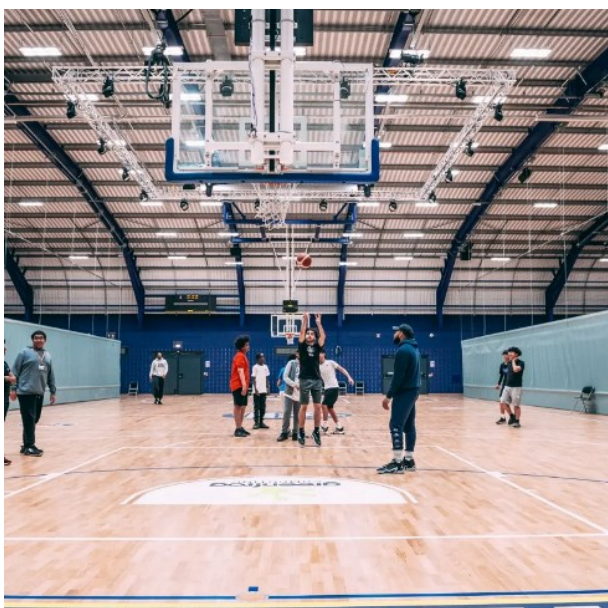


## Our Students

### Respect Programme with the Sheffield Sharks

Year 9 boys have taken part in a six week Respect Programme with the Sheffield Sharks, covering all aspects of good behaviour, respect to others and rules. All the boys thoroughly enjoyed the programme and we hope to be involved again. Many thanks to Sarah from Sharks and the players!

Mrs Proost  
Key Stage 3 Leader



# Our Students

## Crosspool Community Planting

Miss Kent and eight students from Key Stage 3 joined the Crosspool Community Chairman and Vice Chairman on Thursday 16 November 2023, where the students had the opportunity to plant the winter flowers in the flower beds in Crosspool and gain knowledge of why those particular plants survive in the winter etc.

These students were chosen for making improvements in their attendance, positive changes in their attitude and approach to learning and general kindness in and around the School building to other students and staff members.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman of Crosspool community were extremely impressed by the knowledge the students had regarding planting and reiterated many times how well behaved the group was and how well they presented King Edward VII School.

Well done to the following students:

**Y7** - Petya, Freya, Isaac and Ensar

**Y8** - Lilia, Katie and Abdelrahman

**Y9** - Reuben

Miss S. Kent

Education Welfare Officer - Key Stage 3



## Sheffield Youth Voice Award for Sabiha

Sabiha, a Y11 student at King Edward VII School, recently won the Sheffield Youth Voice mental health and wellbeing champion award for her work to end period poverty and shame.

Well done Sabiha, we think this is a fabulous achievement and look forward to seeing what your future holds.

You can read more about Sabiha's award and her work on the BBC — [www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-south-yorkshire-67561057](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-south-yorkshire-67561057)

Miss C. Benloss, Second in Department, English

The screenshot shows a BBC News article. The headline is "Award for Sheffield teenage campaigner against period stigma". Below the headline is a photo of Sabiha, a young woman wearing a white headscarf, holding a "Certificate of Achievement". The article text includes: "Sabiha said she was passionate about campaigning against period inequality and stigma." and "A teenage girl has won an award for her campaigning efforts against shame and stigma around periods." The article is by Arzu Dutta & Chloe Laversuch. On the right side of the screenshot, there are "Top Stories" and "Features" sections with various news items.



## Our Students

### Y11 GCSE Drama

Y11 GCSE Drama students performed their final performance exam at the end of March 2023. They were really outstanding, producing imaginative, original interpretations of two really challenging plays: 4:48 Psychosis by Sarah Kane and Bluebeard's Friends by Caryl Churchill.

We are so proud of them - what a fantastic end to their course. We look forward to seeing what our current Y11 cohort produce next year!

Ms S. Oates  
Curriculum Leader  
Drama



### Ocean at the End of the Lane

Drama students in Y7,8 and 9 had a fabulous trip to see Ocean at the End of the Lane at the Lyceum Theatre in May: a really good, dramatic and at times scary play that was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Ms S. Oates  
Curriculum Leader Drama



## Our Students

### Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead

Y9,10,11,12 and 13 drama students went to see Theatre de Complicite's production of *Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead* at the Lowry Theatre in Manchester in April. It was an extraordinary production and gave us so much to inspire our own work as well as being a great day out.



Building on this trip to Manchester to Y10 GCSE and Y12 A Level Drama students worked with Archie Backhouse from the company, exploring ways in which they can develop their own devised performance pieces using Complicite's unique form and style of theatre. We had a truly inspiring morning!

Ms S. Oates  
Curriculum Leader Drama





## Our Students

### Migration Matters Festival

One of our Y8 Drama classes took part in a workshop as part of the *Migration Matters Festival*. The students worked with Rinkoo Barpaga, an emerging theatre maker who is profoundly deaf, on a number of Physical Theatre activities, exploring how we tell our stories.

Ms S. Oates  
Curriculum Leader Drama



### Mental Health in Sport

Some of our students were treated to an excellent workshop delivered on Mental Health in Sport and had the opportunity to meet Rugby League stars Andrea Dobson and Keith Senior! Andrea is England's most-capped Rugby League international whilst Keith made over 500 career appearances and gained 43 international caps.





# Our Students

## Sports News: *Cross Country*



Despite the torrential rain and muddy conditions KES cross country runners braved the conditions on Saturday 9th December to compete in the Sheffield Schools' Cross Country at Castle Dyke. Well done to all those who competed!



Well done to the KES cross country runners who took part in the English Schools' Cross Country cup in York. The Y7/8 girls finished 2nd and the Y7/8 boys finished 3rd. Both teams making it through to the regional round.

Well done to KES Cross Country runners who braved the conditions at Bradfield High School recently to compete in the Sheffield Schools' Cross Country league. They didn't give up despite the rain and freezing conditions. Outstanding performances and very muddy runners. Amazing!





## Our Students

### Sports News: *Netball, Hockey and Rugby*

Well done to the Year 8 netball team who recently won against Park Academy and displayed some excellent sportsmanship.



A huge well done to the Year 7 netball



team who represented King Edward VII School at the league meet tournament. They displayed excellent skills.

It was the Year 7's first hockey tournament on 20 November. Team members were brilliant, beating Silverdale and Westbourne and drawing against Tapton. Well done to everyone who played!



It was a busy week starting Monday 20 November 2023 for Year 7 and Year 8 Hockey teams. They played their second match of the week against Westbourne. Y7 won 2 - 0 and Y8 were very unlucky to lose 2 -0. Well done to all those who took part!



Outstanding turn out for Year 7's first rugby tournament. 28 King Edward VII School students demonstrated great rugby knowledge and skills with outstanding performances from all!





# Our Students

## Sports News: *Football*

The Year 7 football team beat Notre Dame 5-4. They showed incredible resistance and determination throughout!



Post 16 football: Very close game, drawing to Dinnington 2-2, with outstanding performances from Max and Luca.

A great start to the season for Year 9 boys' football: Two wins from two games. 7-5 against Chaucer and 4-2 against Park Academy.



The Year 8 girls' football team played an amazing match against King Egbert High School on Wednesday 1st November. It was a very close match with KES being one goal up at half time. The final score was 5-4 to King Egberts. Everyone played extremely well!



On 17 November, Y7 and Y8 entered two teams in the EFL girls' football tournament. Both teams made it into the top 8 out of 27 teams with one team making into the semi-finals, finishing in 3rd place. A fantastic day of football organised by Sheffield Wednesday. Well done to all!





## Our Students

### Sports News: *Sports Leaders*



Well done to King Edward VII School's sports leaders who helped out at the Year 5/6 Primary Schools' Sports Hall Athletics on 24 November 2023.



King Edward VII sports leaders organised a winter festival on Wednesday 6th December 2023 at Westways Primary School. All the Y1 pupils took part in lots of winter fun!



Thank you to King Edward VII School students who helped to referee the Y6 primary football tournament that took place at KES on Monday 17th November. Well done to Westways, Lydgate, Greystones and Hunters Bar primary schools who all played exceptionally well!

## Our Students

### Sports News: *Diving*

My name is Robbie Wood and I am in Year 9.

I dive at Ponds Forge for the City of Sheffield Diving Club. I have been diving since 2018 and I am at the junior elite level. I like diving because the people are great.

I have recently competed at the English Schools' Swimming Association National Diving Championships where I won gold on the 3m board. I also competed in mixed synchro for the first time.

I train around 16 hours a week, including some sessions before School.

During my time in the sport, I have been able to travel all over Europe, often the trips are without my parents. My favourite places have been Croatia and London. In February 2024 I am going to the Netherlands to take part in a competition.

Amazing Robbie! Well done!





## Our Sixth Form

### Sheffield Hallam University Transform Pilot

A group of students interested in studying Law and Psychology post 18 attended a pilot day at Sheffield Hallam University (SHU) on Monday 17th July, together with students from other 6th form schools and colleges. During the afternoon session the students were challenged with a mini innovation project, working in groups to produce a presentation.

KES students won two out of the three categories:

Law won 'Best Teamwork' for their presentation skills and Psychology won 'Most Innovative Idea'.

Congratulations to both teams of students.

Miss S. Foster, Pastoral Manager Post 16



**Sheffield  
Hallam  
University**

### Royal Hallamshire Hospital Visit

We had Nic Tinker, Senior Research Sister and Grace Cole, Research Coordinator from the Clinical Research and Innovation Office at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital visiting on Wednesday 1 November 2023. They spoke with a group of Year 13 Health and Social Care students about clinical research, research projects currently underway in Sheffield and the ethics of clinical trials. Students valued the talk and were able to make links with their studies in Unit 4: Enquiries into Current Research in Health and Social Care.

Miss H. Marsden

Curriculum Leader Health and Social Care



Sheffield Teaching Hospitals   
NHS Foundation Trust





## Our Sixth Form

### Y13 Geography Residential – North Yorkshire

The Y13 Geographers had a fantastic time visiting North Yorkshire on their three-day residential. Their stay involved intensive expert tutorage from professional field study staff who specialise in outdoor fieldwork. Students visited coastal, woodland and urban environments to develop their fieldwork skill set in preparation for completing their own independent investigations.



Despite the lack of sunshine and extreme weather conditions, particularly on Friday with the arrival of Storm Babet, our students remained positive and eager to learn. They learnt how to use specialised equipment and electronically collect data to analyse back in the classroom. Working together as a team they were able to use advanced statistical techniques to assess the reliability of their data. The geographers are now confident that they have the capability to complete an independent geographical enquiry.

Mr J Johnston, Teacher of Geography





## Our Sixth Form

### Y13 Physics trip to University of Sheffield - Medical Physics

On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November over 40 Y13 A level physics students spent the afternoon experiencing the world of medical physics at Firth Court, Sheffield University. The event had been hosted by both The University of Sheffield and the Royal Hallamshire Hospital's medical physics department, solely for KES.



The students took part in five different demonstrations which ranged from measurement and biomechanics to lasers and blood cells. The highlight was the opportunity to experience the VR environment in order to understand magnetic resonance imaging. The students were brilliant ambassadors for the School, and fully engaged with all the activities that were offered.

Mrs J Gilbert, Teacher of Physics



Sheffield Teaching Hospitals   
NHS Foundation Trust



# Our Sixth Form

## Charity Bake Sales – Post 16 Fundraisers

This year our Y12 and Y13 students have come together twice to raise money for charity. The first in early October for World Mental Health Day and the charity Young Minds, the leading UK charity fighting for young people’s mental health. The team of bakers came together to create and sell a variety of delicious cakes, biscuits, flapjacks, buns and much more. In the Lower School students also added to the fundraising by contributing £2 donations and wearing yellow!

All together everyone raised a huge £179.67!

Following the huge success of the first bake sale, a group of Y12s came together to do it all again in aid of Papyrus, a charity dedicated to the prevention of young suicide and promotion of positive mental health and emotional well-being in young people.

The group sold their wonderful baked goods over break and lunch time and raised an amazing £126.85!

Thank you to every student and staff member who donated, and all the volunteers who made both bake sales a huge success for two very worthy charities.

Miss M. Wragg. Pastoral Manager Post 16



**YOUNGMINDS**  
fighting for young people's mental health



**PAPYRUS**  
PREVENTION OF YOUNG SUICIDE



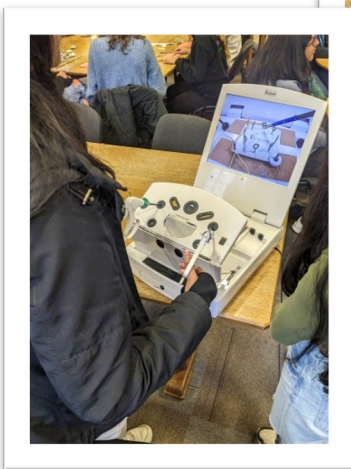
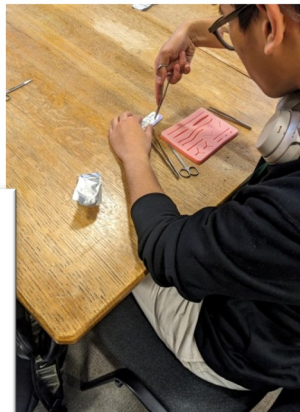


## Our Sixth Form

### Getting into Medicine Workshop – Y12 and Y13 Early Applicants

As part of The University of Sheffield Medical School's Widening Access a group of medical students from the Medicine and Surgical Society, visited KES and our post 16 early applicant students to deliver an interactive workshop. The aim to introduce students into the various aspects of an application to study medicine at university, what life is like as a surgeon, a range of practical skills and top tips on how to optimise their applications. The students also explored valuable experiences for the students to reflect on in their personal statements and interviews, an essential aspect of a successful application.

Anna Watts, Senior Specialist Registrar in Trauma and Orthopedics also attended and spoke to the students about her past experiences, medical school and day to day life as a working surgeon. Overall the students were able to try out new skills and discuss any queries they had about their future pathways. Thank you to all those who attended.



**SWAMS**

Sheffield Widening Access to Medical School  
SWAMS@sheffield.ac.uk

Miss M. Wragg  
Pastoral Manager Post 16



## Our Sixth Form

### Year 13 Psychology

On the 12<sup>th</sup> October the Year 13 Psychologists finally got to dissect the brains that had been promised since Year 12!!

A large number of students turned up to at least see, if not label and dissect, the brains to locate the various different regions that have been taught in the biological core studies as part of their A level Psychology.

Students were able to label the structure of the brain with different coloured map pins, locating the four different lobes of the brain and the structures that have been taught including the corpus callosum, visual cortex, inferior frontal gyrus and hippocampus.

There was lots of intrigue and discussion during the lesson from the students and some nicely labelled and dissected brains at the end of it. Well done to all for being brave enough to cope with the smell of the preservative!!

Mrs Isaac  
Teacher of Psychology



Colour	Region of the brain
Black	Ventral striatum
Purple	Cerebellum
Dark Blue	Inferior frontal gyrus
Light Blue	Spinal cord
Green	Optic nerve
Yellow	Parietal lobe
Orange	Corpus callosum
Red	Frontal lobe
Pink	Posterior hippocampus
	Occipital lobe /visual cortex

### Visit to Law Courts

On the 13th and 17th November, Year 13 Psychology students spent the day at Sheffield Law Courts. The day started with an engaging talk from a clerk introducing the workings of the court system and the different roles within it, followed by a fascinating question and answer session with an experienced judge. Students asked some great questions, ranging from the judge's perspective on 'Prima Facie' to 'what's the story behind the wig?'

They then spent the rest of the day observing a wide range of Crown Court hearings, including defence and prosecution cross-examinations, plea hearings and sentencings. Our Y13s were excellent representatives for KES and will now apply what they have learned to their current criminal Psychology topic, 'Psychology and the Courtroom'.

Mrs E. Hall, Curriculum Leader, Psychology



## Our Staff

### Teacher Award Recognition!

Mrs Proost was surprised and delighted to be awarded the Teacher award from the Company of Cutlers for her commitment to the Cutlers' Ambassadors programme. She also received a cheque for £250.

Mrs Proost is our Key Stage 3 Leader who not only works with the Cutlers' Ambassadors programme but also the Big Challenge. This is in addition to working on other inspiring initiatives and looking after all the students in Y7, 8 and 9.

Amazing work Mrs Proost! Well done!



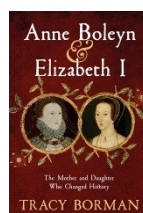
### KES Christmas Light Switch-on

Mr Cooke (Assistant Headteacher Post 16), our joint longest serving member of staff alongside Mrs Simpson (Finance Officer), had the honour of switching on the staffroom annual Christmas lights at Upper School! Thank you also to Mr Jarvis and his daughter, Autumn, for making a fabulous job of decorating the tree in the Upper School foyer.



### Our Historians

Two of our History teachers, Mrs Davies and Mrs Brown (Curriculum Lead and Second in Department), enjoyed seeing Tracy Borman, author, historian and broadcaster, speak at the Off The Shelf Festival in October about her new book (and getting their hands on a copy!).





## Our School

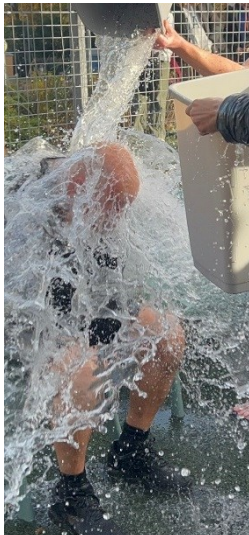
### Our Fairytale Trail

Our Buildings Officer, Mr Jarvis, captured these beautiful images of our autumnal School grounds. We just had to share our 'fairytale trail'.



### Children In Need

Close to £1,000 was raised for Children In Need 2023! Staff got very wet but the students had lots of fun! Thanks for all your kind donations.





# Our School

## Bookbuzz

At King Edward VII School, we love to support students to read widely both for pleasure and academic study. This term, to inspire our Year 8 students to continue their reading journey, they were gifted a Bookbuzz book funded by the School Library. Each student had the opportunity to choose a book from list of titles to take home and keep.



*Pictured: some of the students who were presented with their book by Ms Gooden, Headteacher.*

**Which is your favourite?**

[booktrust.org.uk/bookbuzz](http://booktrust.org.uk/bookbuzz)  
#MyBookbuzz

The Lower School Library also recently hosted a book fair for staff and students to purchase books at half price.



### Welcome to Bookbuzz!

Bookbuzz is an exciting reading programme specially developed by children's reading charity BookTrust to encourage young people to keep picking up books and turning the page.

As well as being fun, reading regularly has a significant impact on students' wellbeing, imagination and language skills. Unfortunately, reading frequently declines once young people reach adolescence.

Bookbuzz can help you bring reading to life in your school and inspire your students to become lifelong readers.

With 16 fantastic titles to choose from, we're sure every student will find something they love.

**Let's get started!**

## Oh Christmas Tree

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas at Lower School with our Year 8 students decorating our Christmas tree in reception.





## Our School

### **Four Crises of KES**

**1926,27, 1944-45, 1962-1968, 1982-86**

### **Going Comprehensive - Part One 1962-1968**

In 1962 at one of their regular policy meeting at Sheffield Town Hall, the majority Labour Group on the City Council voted to end grammar schools, as well as technical schools, like Rowlinson and Central Tech, and the more numerous secondary modern schools and introduce comprehensive schools throughout the city within a decade. The meeting was in private but was a hotly contested meeting with the old guard of councillors reluctant to abolish their most successful grammar schools, including KES, High Storrs and Abbeydale Girls and Boys Grammar Schools. The Chair of Education, the much respected, Ald. Albert Ballard, and the Leader of the Council, Dame Grace Tebbut, supported by many older working class councillors who had left school at 14, were proud of the achievements of their grammar schools and were delighted when their own children passed their 11 + examination, especially to the high performing King Edward VII School in Broomhill, that regularly sent 25 or more pupils to Oxbridge every year, many on prestigious scholarships.

The meeting was a triumph for younger members of the Labour Group led by two former grammar school boys who also taught at nearby West Riding grammar schools, Coun. Peter Horton and Coun. Peter Price, who was later an MP and the first Vice Chancellor of Leeds Carnegie University. It was the culmination of a campaign within the Sheffield Labour movement to get rid of the dreaded 11+ examination and the tripartite system it created. Many people especially in the Labour strongholds of north and east Sheffield felt the present system was holding their children back, deciding not just their schools but their life's chances and career options at a far too early age, and would show in the next few years their political support for comprehensive education through the annual local elections.

At King Ted's this vote of the Labour Group caused little of any interest at the time. Feeling secure in their undoubted prestige as the most successful grammar school in the country, competing with the most famous public schools for Oxbridge honours, they assumed that none of these decisions as they became official council policy would ever affect them. The Council started their comprehensive plans in the north of the city where there was only one grammar school, Firth Park G.S., and then moved on to the east and south east where the new City School had just been built when City G.S moved out of its Leopold St. Buildings in the City Centre. It now became City Comprehensive School and again there was little or no fuss about the transition. The Labour Council knew that the real battle for comprehensive education would start in the south west of Sheffield where there were five grammar schools, KES, High Storrs, Abbeydale Boys and Girls and Grange Girls Grammar School. This was not Labour's territory but solid blue Conservative with Conservative MP's in Hallam and Heeley constituencies. This was the highland home of the Sheffield middle class and they were not expected to be sympathetic to comprehensive education.

### **The KES campaign against Comprehensive education**

By early 1965 alarm bells were ringing in the corridors of King Edward's and among many of the parents of boys at the school, following a discussion at the January Council meeting that outlined the plans to introduce comprehensive education to the south west of the city. Suddenly KES staff and parents knew the council meant business and their status as a grammar school was in jeopardy. The staff were almost entirely against any change. Many threatened to leave and subsequently half of them did by 1969. They sent a letter to the Council protesting at the lack of consultation with the KES staff that was signed by 38 out of 44 teaching staff, whilst only one relatively young and new member of staff bravely wrote to the Star supporting comprehensive education. The Headmaster, Nathaniel Clapton, was horrified that his work over the last 25 years building up the fine reputation of the school, especially among Oxbridge colleges, was, he claimed, to be ruined, as the school became just another comprehensive school, no better or worse than any other school in the city.

## Our School

He did not lead the campaign against the changes, as Dr. Barton had done in 1944-45, but he was a sick man, frequently absent from the school, who retired in the summer of 1965 and died in 1967 a sad and disappointed man. There was no school Governing Body to stand up for the school and fight its corner and so the battle to “save” King Edwards was taken up by concerned parents as it was in 2023.

The leader of the campaign was Dr. Malcolm McCaig, a research physicist at the University, who had two boys at the school and he called a meeting in mid January at the Quaker Meeting House in Hartshead. That meeting was well attended by 60 parents who confirmed McCaig as chair, appointed a committee, and drew up a very thorough action plan. Looking back now at their major decisions that evening it seems a very model of what an effective pressure group should attempt to do. They initiated a campaign of door-stepping Labour councillors, and a sustained campaign to bombard the local press with letters arguing KES’s case. They planned a major rally to be held in February in the City Hall, where they would launch an ambitious petition aiming for 45,000 names. They also agreed to keep in contact with the KES staff, the Old Edwardian’s Association and the supporters of other grammar schools in Sheffield, as well as in other cities, such as in Liverpool where the Headmaster of the Liverpool institute had resigned to openly fight his Labour council over the issue of turning his famous school into a comprehensive school.

Finally, in an attempt to get wide support, they decide to name their protest group, “The Sheffield Parents’ Association for Secondary Education”, claiming that they also supported the improvement of secondary modern schools, although in reality their campaign was always about King Ted’s and garnered little support from the parents at other grammar schools in the south west of the city, who mounted very little opposition to the comprehensive scheme themselves.

The campaign was going so well during the spring term, the City Hall rally was well attended, despite a few demonstrators outside the building from Hinde House School, and the petition finally reached 20,000 names, but one incident threatened to derail the campaign. Thirteen Sixth Form boys wrote a letter to the Star supporting comprehensive education and the Headteacher went apoplectic when he read it. Two of the boys were prefects and he publicly demoted them in front of the whole school at morning assembly. This allowed all those who were fed up with reading about KES’s concerns and special pleading to write to the Star and attack the Headteacher’s actions and the careful crafting of a seemingly unstoppable campaign was punctured for the a time by this incident.

Nevertheless, in April the Council finally passed its comprehensive plans for the south west of the city and KES was designated as a boys only comprehensive school with a girls only comprehensive school to be take over the new buildings at Darwin Lane that later became KES’s Lower School. The Scheme had still to be approved by the Government but that Government was now Labour and the Sec. of State for Education was Anthony Crossland who had publicly stated that he wanted to close every grammar school in the country.

Dr. McCaig and his indefatigable committee were not prepared to give up the fight and they now concentrated their ire on the newly appointed Headteacher, Russell Sharrock, who had been “head-hunted” by the council because he was currently the Deputy Head of a comprehensive school in south London. Sharrock was seen as a man with successful experience of running an existing comprehensive school, but who was a grammar school product himself and had taught at a variety of schools including grammar schools, a secondary modern and even an HMC public school.



## Our School

The KES parents wrote to him and told him they did not want him to accept the post, that “his appointment would dilute standards”, before ending up by saying there was nothing personal in their remarks. Undeterred, but probably chastened, by the unwelcoming attitude of the staff (nine out of fifteen Heads of Department left in the next couple of years) and by the hostility of the parent’s campaign, Russell Sharrock first task in early 1966 when he took over was to continue to run a grammar school for the next few years, as the comprehensive scheme for south west Sheffield was not due to be implemented until 1971. The cavalry arrives in the nick of time.

Then in 1968 a political bombshell hit Sheffield. Something the KES staff and supporters of grammar school status never considered a remote possibility. Labour lost control of the City Council to the Conservatives, something that had not happened since 1933 and would never happen again. Suddenly comprehensive education was in jeopardy in Sheffield’s south west and it was widely expected that the local Conservatives would throw out the scheme and KES would remain what it has been since 1945; an all-scholarship, elite, boy’s grammar school, even if grammar school was a name they never used. KES was always King Edward VII School.

Next Term the story continues and KES becomes not just a comprehensive school, but a co-educational one as well.

If you want to read more about this crucial period in the school’s history it can be found in Chapter 15 of the Centenary History of the school, entitled King Ted’s, on the School’s website. Alternatively there are three copies of the book in the Upper School library.

JCC.  
Nov 2023

## Food Bank Appeal 2023

A MASSIVE thank you to students, staff, parents and carers for donating items to the S6 Food Bank Appeal 2023. We have collected 34 boxes of items at School to help those in our community.



## Old Edwardians and Young Edwardians

### The Millennium Boys' ....camping holiday in Wales

*Ben Nunnington tells his grandfather, Jeremy Biggin [aka "Bops"], about his holiday with lifelong pals.*

Ben, our eldest grandson had just returned from a camping holiday in Wales and had photos to show us. As well as wonderful shots of the area around St David's, one photo stood out from all the rest; that photo is reproduced here. It is a group shot of those who were on this holiday together. Friends, chums, mates, ... certainly; but I reckon more appropriately real Pals with an upper-case "P". There were fifteen pals [14 on this photo], in four cars, and aged between 19-21. When Ben was asked about how long they had known each other, I was amazed. Some he'd known since Broomhill Infant School aged 5... others since Nether Green Junior School aged 7 and some from King Edward V11 [Lower and Upper] from aged 11.



L-R - Elliot Head, Ruben Kateregga, Robbie Edwards, Connor Mullaney, Harry Edgar, Ben Nunnington, Seb Croft, Dan Haynes, Tom Temple, Finn Zajac, Sam Davey, Joel Lang, Joe Goldacre and Julian Kelly [Steve Backshall centre arms crossed] ....Callum Harris is not in the photo but joined later.

There were some Westways Primary pupils, who gravitated to King Edward's'. All credit due to the Headteachers and teaching staff at the schools, as they obviously created an atmosphere which encouraged friendships... in this case very much lasting. Mention is made of Messrs Thornton, and Lomas [Nether Green], and Mr Grantham at King Edward VII School, encouraging the sporting activities often in their "own" time.

This was the first opportunity they had had since the various "lockdowns" due to Covid, of gathering. Zoom and WhatsApp had been important communication tools during the height of Covid and these pals kept "an-eye-on-each-other" during that very tricky time... self-isolation, covid, lockdown frustration and uni-studies difficulties. Apart from "catching-up" the break consisted of Pembrokeshire coastal walks, sea swimming and cliff diving, BBQ'ing and visiting local pubs... in other words what might be expected!

As well as being in the same classrooms and sharing the joys and angst of GCSEs and A-Levels, sport and in particular soccer played a big part in their friendships. From winning the Broomhill Festival, 2008, 5-a -side soccer tournament to other successes when at King Edward's. There they reached the last 16 of the National Schools' Cup and won the world's second oldest schools' soccer championship, The Sheffield Schools' Clegg Shield in 2014.



## Old Edwardians and Young Edwardians

Several of this group took part together on the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award in 2019 in Scotland

In this photograph you will have notice an older man. By pure coincidence it is Steve Backshall who with his family [his wife being the Olympic rowing medallist Helen Glover] was on the same campsite. This group of pals, almost to a man, has been hooked on his "Deadly 60" BBC programme [2008 onwards]. He willingly posed with them for the team photo. Strangely enough Steve Backshall has just started another series which is on "UKTV Dave". He's exploring the "Unknown Corners of the World. The Millennium Boys will be tuning-in.



*Fort William holiday 2018 [9 Millennium Boys]*

This year many reach the grand old age of 21 and indeed have shared 21st birthday parties. They now have a larger geographical distance between each other, due to University; Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Bristol, Newcastle [Porto, Portugal, work experience], Hallam and careers, but they retain a close kindred spirit. A recently formed soccer team in Sheffield, Kelham Island FC has 4 pals signed-up.



*Broomhill Festival 5-a-side winners Broomhill Infant School 2008  
[3 of the Millennium Boys]*

From drinking school milk together to lager and best bitter, gigging, clubbing and holidaying this bond is, in my view, a cracking example of friendships which last and last.....not unique but good to see.

"It's always a laugh with old school mates" says Ben. "We've known each other since we can remember and everyone's comfortable in each other's company. That's probably why we organise trips away together, to see each other like old times. ...Here's to the next time!"

*Seb Croft and Joe Goldacre were the organisers of the holiday and grandson Ben Nunnington the story teller!*

# Old Edwardians and Young Edwardians

2010 Nether Green at a tournament in Newcastle  
Mr Thornton and Mr Lucas...6 of the Millennium Boys



Ben and Dan Sheffield Boys U15 trophy 2015



Sheffield Schools, Clegg Shield winners 2014 [8 Millennium Boys]



2017 King Teds cup match



The day GCSE Levels results landed....5 Millennium Boys

King Edward's Pre-prom 2019 ....11 of the Millennium Boys



2020 summer back from Scotland after Gold DoE



## Old Edwardians and Young Edwardians

### Timothy Baylis

It is always an absolute honour and privilege to welcome Old Edwardians back to King Edward VII School after many years, and often, after many decades. It is fascinating to be able to gain a greater insight into the history of the School through the eyes and experiences of former students.

On Tuesday 28 November 2023 I welcomed Timothy Baylis, who is now 91 years old, to Upper School and we were in good company with John Cornwell, the School's historian, archivist, author and former Chair of the Governing Board, amongst many other things. See his contribution to this newsletter on pages 38 - 40.

In Timothy Baylis' initial letter to me he shared the following:

Sheffield is 'the City of my birth, and Senior School (11-14).

My father Phillip was the Music teacher for 17 years in both KES Junior and Senior Schools before leaving in 1946 to be the Senior Lecturer in Music at the Teacher Training College in Eastbourne.

I am now 91 years old with memories of staff such as Messrs Wathing (Classics), E Efron, Miss Knight, Mr Nicholas (strict disciplinarian) etc.

Living in nearby Watson Road, I survived 2 nights of heavy bombing in 1940. I had shelter lessons in underground classrooms dug under the playing fields (mental arithmetic). The dining hall basement was used by survivors from Attercliffe while we had lessons in private houses.

After National Service in Egypt (1950-52), I gained a teacher qualification at Westminster College then in London.

I ultimately became a pioneer graduate from the Open University and taught English, History, and Geography in comprehensive schools in Leicester.'

Timothy Baylis and John Cornwell, following afternoon tea in my office,

spent some time looking at the Remembrance Day display at Upper School (more details on page 48 of the newsletter) and at the historical School related items in one of the display cabinets.



## Old Edwardians and Young Edwardians



When Timothy Baylis returned home to Leicester, he sent John Cornwell and me further details about the war years and about how those who gained access to the School, via scholarships, were taught separately from the fee paying students. We were not aware of this prior to our meeting with Timothy Baylis. An extract from his letter dated 6 December 2023 reads:

Following the Air Raids in December 1940 the School cared for poor folk from the East End while we had relaxed lesson in Big Houses nearby 5-7 pupils received enjoyable lessons. Maths and French definitely appeared.  
George Turner, George Macbeth, I. J. G. Marshall were the gang mates and Alfie Lewis paid fees as did his bronze sister Rachel at the High School.  
Boys from poorer parts who passed the 11+ were regarded as oddities. Their hob nail boots clattered on the stairs. Moth-eaten jumpers and broad accents were also reviled.

John Cornwell and I will be forever grateful for the information shared by Timothy Baylis and will always remember the time we spent together one afternoon in November 2023.

PS: Timothy Baylis' is an exceptional artist too. This is one of his most recent paintings.





## Old Edwardians and Young Edwardians

### Andre Brooks - Sheffield United

We love to see what our alumni are up to once they leave us so it was wonderful to see ex student Andre Brooks make his full Premier League debut with Sheffield United against Liverpool on Wednesday 6th December!

Just amazing Andre! Well done!



### Remembrance Day 2023

I led the Remembrance Day Assembly for all Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 students at Upper School on Friday 10 November 2023. This is a significant moment in the life, experiences and history of King Edward VII School and each year it is important that we stop, pause and reflect upon its continuing relevance to all of us.

The theme of the assembly was remembering and honouring Service, 'the act of defending and protecting the nation's democratic freedoms and way of life' and recognising that this 'is rarely without cost to those who serve.'

2023 marks significant anniversaries, including:

- The 70th anniversary of the armistice which ended the fighting of the Korean War which involved British and Commonwealth forces who served in almost unimaginable conditions.



## Old Edwardians and Young Edwardians

- The contribution of the generation in uniform who undertook National Service, 60 years after the last serviceman was demobbed.
- The 75th anniversary of the arrival of settlers from the Caribbean on the Empire Windrush. The passengers on this ship, and many others, were part of the armed forces and played an important role in rebuilding post war Britain.

During the assembly students considered who and what we remember? Why do we remember? How do we remember? Stories of service and sacrifice were shared. I also read out a poem that was written by one of our amazing students. The poem was the Lower School Prize Winner of the Catherine Lord (former English teacher) Poetry Competition 2021. It is re-printed below.

### Fallen Soldiers' Emotions

Falling. I am falling into a dark endless pit;  
A pit of uncertainty and despair,  
Beyond that is the unknown.  
Unknown (a dangerous word)  
As you can't predict your future.  
I am seeing the battered, stained and dishevelled soldiers,  
Unconscious of who they are; engulfed in vacant expressions.  
The putrid smells of engine oil and overused medicine.  
The worried faces of families.  
The resounding noise of the bombs reverberates across the streets,  
The screams of people as they try evading their deaths.  
The air-raid siren – it's a nightmare, a vivid dark nightmare.  
It's all too much!  
I can feel the crushing wave of depression and anxiety,  
I can feel a surge of fear jolt through my veins.  
What if I fail? What if I am sent away in shame?  
That's when I see them, the pleading faces of the soldiers,  
And I know I must help. They NEED Help.  
These soldiers have saved England through atonement,  
And I know I can contrast with their darkest days.  
I see the sun shining and smile,  
For it symbolises that there is still hope...

Assemblies were also held at Lower School, by Mr Gardiner (Assistant Headteacher, Key Stage 3). There was silence for two minutes on both sites at 11.00am. At Upper School, Robin Webb (Year 12) played The Last Post.

Ms Gooden  
Headteacher  
Reference: Royal British Legion, 2023



# Old Edwardians and Young Edwardians

## Robert Griffin - Remembrance

Outside, at the war memorial at Upper School, you can see a stone laid for a fellow Old Edwardian Royal Marine Robert Griffin, who lost his life in the Falkland Conflict in 1982. His body was never recovered, because he was lost at sea.

On the 11th November, several family members, and a few friends who knew Royal Marine Robert Griffin, came to pay their respects at the War Memorial. One of his friends had made crosses with poppies on them and a memorial piece comprising of three soldiers and the landing craft that Royal Marine Robert Griffin lost his life on. This was also covered in poppies. A friend of mine, Mr Mick Beeley (of M&A Trophies) produced a brass, inscribed plaque, to attach to a bespoke plinth I produced to display the cross. Mr Beeley kindly donated the plaque free of charge to the School in respect to a Royal Marine.



I suggested that the memorial piece be moved inside and placed alongside our memorial display and the family agreed.

I suggested that the memorial piece be moved inside and placed alongside our memorial display and the family agreed.

We stood silent for two minutes at the appropriate time, photographs were taken, hugs were given out and tears were wiped away.

I then invited the family to write in the Book of Remembrance 2023 and place the Remembrance



piece in the display. Mandy, a family member, wrote the family's thoughts in the book and thanked the

School for all the work we have done in remembering her brother Royal Marine Robert Griffin.



## Old Edwardians and Young Edwardians

### Obituaries

#### **Roland H Smith CMG**

**(KES 1954-1961)**

Roland Smith and I came to KES together from Carterknowle Junior school in 1954. He was an all-round academic high achiever, especially proficient in languages. He left KES in 1961 with an Open Scholarship in Modern Languages at Keble College, Oxford and the Sheffield Royal Grammar School Prize for French and German. In our final year, Roland and I were jointly entrusted with the responsibility of the role of Head Librarian.

Roland was already a chorister at Holy Trinity Church, Millhouses, and he developed his musical talent at KES by singing in the choir and playing the viola in the orchestra during Norman Barnes' best years. With several other first-year A level students he studied British Constitution to O level under the inspirational guidance of T K Robinson. Taken together, these experiences shaped some of his life-long interests – politics, choral singing and the practical application of the Christian faith. At Keble he began a lengthy association with the Christian Movement for Peace, an international ecumenical movement, established in the 1920s, which organised international work-camps where young people worked together on life-enhancing projects. He was also a passionate and knowledgeable supporter of Sheffield United FC and of the Tramway Museum Society.

Roland left Keble in 1965 with a first-class honours' degree. He had represented Keble in the first series of 'University Challenge' in 1962/3. In the preliminary rounds, Keble soundly defeated a team from the University of Sussex. Roland's speed and accuracy on the buzzer was noticed with considerable frustration by one Katherine Lawrence, Sussex's first student of Russian. Six years later their paths crossed when they met as colleagues in the British Embassy in Moscow. Romance quickly blossomed and they married in 1971.

After obtaining a Dip.Ed and teaching for one year, Roland began a 35-year career in the Diplomatic Service. Much of his career was devoted to promoting world peace and improving East/West relations. To help achieve those aims, he joined an intensive Russian language course, designed primarily for military personnel. Between 1969 and 2002 he had several postings abroad. He served twice in the British Embassy in Moscow in the Soviet era, latterly as Cultural Attaché, and was posted twice to NATO Headquarters in Brussels. In the second period he was Deputy Permanent Representative in the UK delegation, at a time when several former Warsaw pact countries applied to join NATO. Towards the end of this posting, Sir John Goulden, also an Old Edwardian (1952-59); assumed the post of UK Ambassador to NATO, and therefore became Roland's boss; thus for a few weeks in 1995 the UK delegation to NATO was headed up by two OEs!

Earlier, in the mid-80s, he served as political adviser to the British Military Government in Berlin. Although West Germany largely governed itself after 1949, the four powers which occupied Germany after World War II (Britain, France, USA and USSR) retained important joint responsibilities for Berlin until the country was re-unified in 1990.

Between postings abroad, Roland worked in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London. From 1990 he headed up the Foreign Office's contribution to an interdepartmental team



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pursuing the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and when he returned to the UK from Brussels in 1995, he became Director for International Security, His final appointment was as British Ambassador to Ukraine (1999-2002). Ukraine had yet to achieve political stability after the demise of communism but through calm and steady diplomacy he overcame political barriers and helped Ukraine forge new links with the West.

When time permitted abroad, he pursued his interest in music. He forged close friendships with leading Russian musicians in Moscow, sang in the prestigious Berlin Philharmonic choir and founded an embassy choir in Kyiv. To recognise his contribution to the Diplomatic Service, he had been awarded the CMG in the 1994 Birthday Honours List.

After leaving the Diplomatic Service, he became the first Director of the St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace in London. Two years later he moved to the Wakefield and Tetley Trust and the Tower Hill Trust, two independent Trusts which fund projects aimed at improving the quality of life for disadvantaged residents of Tower Hamlets, Southwark and the City of London. He served as Clerk to the Trustees for over 13 years until finally he retired on his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Roland died suddenly on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023, aged 80. No less than five survivors of the 1954 KES intake attended his funeral in Worthing, so diligent had he been in maintaining long-standing friendships. Katherine, his widow, and their two daughters survive him.

Godfrey Talford (KES 1954-61)



## Old Edwardians and Young Edwardians

### Obituaries

#### **Dr Steve Gillam**

John Parr, President of the Old Edwardians' Association, was informed of the death of Dr Steve Gillam on Sunday 6th August, by a family member, Anne Gillam.

He passed away suddenly after a period of ill health.

There was a private cremation service and then the following week a Celebration of life.

The Memorial service and Celebration of life was held at St Johns Church, Walton, Chesterfield, S42 7LT on Friday 8th September at 2pm.

#### **Tony Grant**

John Parr was informed of the death of Tony Grant who passed away on 28th August. A notice appeared in the Yorkshire Post as follows:

GRANT Anthony Ernest (Tony), MA OBE died peacefully on 28th August, aged 83. Loving husband of Darel, father of Henrietta, Sarah and Philippa and grandfather of Harry and Georgiana.

**Funeral at Stonefall Crematorium, Harrogate on 20th September at 3.15pm.**

#### **Richard Walter Ibbotson**

John Parr was informed of the death of Richard Walter Ibbotson, aged 67 years. Gently passed away on 29th July in hospital. Of Fulwood, former solicitor and chairman of Abbeydale Sports Club. Loving husband of Julie, father of Emma and Charlotte, grandfather of Grayson, brother of Robert, and uncle, godfather and friend. Private cremation. Celebration and reception at Abbeydale Sports Club, Abbeydale Road South, S17 3LJ on Friday 25th August at 1.00pm.

