



Gemstones Reunion – Saturday, 25 January 2025

In January we welcomed back the classes of 1965, 1975, and 1985 for the Gemstones Reunion. It was a truly joyful occasion filled with nostalgia, laughter, and reconnections. Chief Master & Principal, Kirsty von Malaisé, warmly welcomed all the attendees and updated them on life at both schools today. It was lovely to see so many Old Edwardians catching up, and recognising faces they hadn't seen in over 50 years.

The day featured an archive stand, giving attendees the chance to contribute to their very own special **Alumni Yearbook**, which was followed by a delightful afternoon tea, and finished with guided tours of KEHS. Another fantastic opportunity to reminisce about school days and marvel at how much (or how little!) things had changed over the past 40 to 60 years. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in ten years' time!



Neurodiversity Celebration Week!

KEHS held its Neurodiversity Celebration Week from 17 March with many events taking place including: an assembly to remind everyone what neurodiversity means; to welcome back writer and historian, Simon Jarrett, a KES alumnus who gave a fascinating talk on the perception and treatment of mental disability throughout history; four neurodivergent pupils who shared their experiences of school and lessons with teachers, explaining the strategies they found most effective for their progress; the Warnock Room (the KEHS SEND room) was opened to everyone to see the layout and ask questions; a neurodiversity fair was also held - a chance to find out about your brain type, and also to receive information on various neurodivergent conditions. The week was a tremendous success!

Alpine F1 Academy programme!

Sukhmani in the Lower Fourth, who has had numerous successes in this field already, has successfully graduated onto the full Alpine F1 Academy programme.

The announcement was made live on ITV's This Morning, where Sukhmani joined Susie Wolff, Managing Director of the F1 Academy, which inspires more girls to get into motorsport.

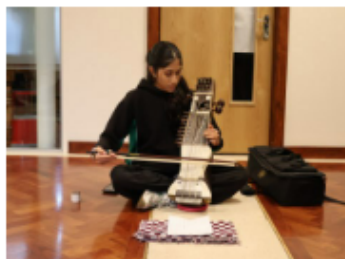




Culture Week

KEHS students' thoughts on their Culture Week in March:

'It wasn't just an event: it was an experience. It was a reflection of who we are as a school. It was a reminder that diversity isn't just something we talk about at KEHS. It's something we embrace. It was the school at its best: alive, vibrant, and bursting with the energy of pupils coming together to celebrate identity, heritage, and the beauty of diversity. The sheer number of people who took part, made it clear that culture isn't just something we acknowledge at KEHS. It's something we live.'



Tolkien Lecture

On Friday, 7 March, we were delighted to host our first Tolkien Lecture since 2019, a series named in honour of one of the school's most distinguished alumni, J R R Tolkien. After a hiatus in the series due to the pandemic, it was a pleasure to resume this highly anticipated tradition of academic talks.

We were honoured to welcome back Old Edwardian, Professor Chris Hodges OBE (1972), as our speaker for this lecture. He delivered an insightful and engaging lecture on the major issues surrounding the compensation schemes for sub-postmasters and mistresses in the aftermath of the infamous scandal. He also shared his expertise on his role as Chair of the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology's Regulatory Horizon's Council, which advises the Government on the regulation of emerging technologies. His talk was certainly thought-provoking and engaging which led to a lively Q&A at the end of the lecture. For those that missed it, you can watch



Dance Production

Over 150 pupils took to the Ruddock Stage for the Dance Production, making it the largest one to date! With this year's theme focusing on female empowerment, it was truly remarkable to see months of hard work culminate into such powerful and well-executed numbers, all thoroughly enjoyed by the packed audiences!

Well done and thank you to all the dancers, the Dance Committee, Miss McKee, Ms Soderman and the RPAC staff for putting on another fantastic show!

Senior Production

Our phenomenally creative KEHS/KES students displayed all their skills in this year's Senior Production, 'Let The Right One In'. This vampire tale set in 1980s Sweden explored dark themes of isolation and loneliness. The stage crew and company relished the challenge of bringing such complex characters and weighty themes to the Ruddock stage for three nights, and the audiences were on the edge of their seats!



Sports News Highlights



We're delighted to share with you that KEHS Sport have been ranked 30th in the UK in 'School Sport' Magazine!

On 28 March, our U14 netball team represented the West Midlands in the National Finals and finished in the top 10 with 18 schools represented. Three days later, the U16 badminton team competed in the National Cup Finals in Sheffield and came fourth nationally!



Congratulations to several of our pupils who recently competed in county swimming championships, and achieved some fantastic times.

The fencing team recently travelled to Lee Valley for the Public Schools Fencing Championships. It was an action-packed day culminating in KEHS winning the Lady Eleanor Holles Cup!

Choral and Orchestral Concerts

The echoes of applause have now fallen silent after two outstanding concerts recently held at the Ruddock Performing Arts Centre. On Sunday, 9 March, the Choral Society conducted by Linnea Markgren, sang Duruflé's Requiem, an inspiring work full of colour and character. The KES/KEHS Symphony then played Mahler's *Symphony No 9*.

The following evening, Rebecca dazzled with Rakhmaninov's Second Piano Concerto, alongside a second chance to enjoy the Mahler. The audience responded with a standing ovation, a fitting tribute to the dedication and skill of our musicians.

These concerts were a true testament to the ambition and excellence of music across both our schools.



Summer telephone campaign

We are busy preparing for this year's summer telethon - an opportunity for alumni and students to speak to one another about school, make connections, and learn about how they can give back to KEHS through [CareersLink](#) and the [Assisted Places Fund](#). We have just interviewed and recruited the Upper Sixth and they are very much looking forward to speaking to you.

'I am super excited to be a part of the summer telethon, raising money for a cause that plays such an important part in many of our students' lives. I also look forward to learning more about our Old Edwardians, their time at KEHS and what they have been getting up to since! It is a real privilege to be a student caller and help support our school.'



Alumnae Services

Here's a reminder of the many services you can expect as a member of our alumnae community:

- **Events:** we run dozens of events through the year, including school concerts, special lectures and community get-togethers.
- **Reunions:** we'll invite you to a special reunion for your cohort once every ten years. These are the Milestones Reunions for 10th, 20th and 30th anniversaries, and the Gemstones Reunions for your 40th, 50th 60th and even 70th anniversaries.
- **Communications:** we'll send you our termly e-newsletter, *Connect*, and our annual magazine, *keynotes*, to help keep you up-to-date with school and alumnae news. We'll also send you email updates.
- **Connections:** we can help you stay in touch with old friends, or even reconnect you with lost ones. Just [get in touch](#).
- **Networking:** join CareersLink to offer careers advice to pupils and other alumnae, or to access the advice for yourself.
- **History & Archives:** you can also access our online archive - and search for yourself and your friends - [here](#).

Dates for your Diary

Saturday, 21 June 2025 - Milestones Reunion (Classes of 1995, 2005 & 2015 with all alumnae welcome)

We are holding a very special reunion for the classes of **1995, 2005 and 2015** from both King Edward VI High School for Girls and King Edward's School, Birmingham and we want you to be part of it! The evening will consist of the AGM, tours of the school, two-course buffet dinner and time for plenty of reconnecting! If you are not one of the above year groups and still wish to attend, then please do book a place as you are more than welcome! [You can book your place here](#).

Already booked your place? Then encourage your fellow classmates to come along too!

Friday, 12 September 2025 - University Networking

Did you leave KEHS in or after 2020? Then you are invited back to our Networking Event! The Class of 2026 will greatly benefit from your insights, as you share your first-hand experiences on choosing a university, exploring different degree courses and navigating accommodation options. Your advice will be invaluable to them as they start to think about their journeys outside of King Edward's. [Click here to register](#).



ASSISTED PLACES



KEHS ARCHIVES



UPCOMING EVENTS